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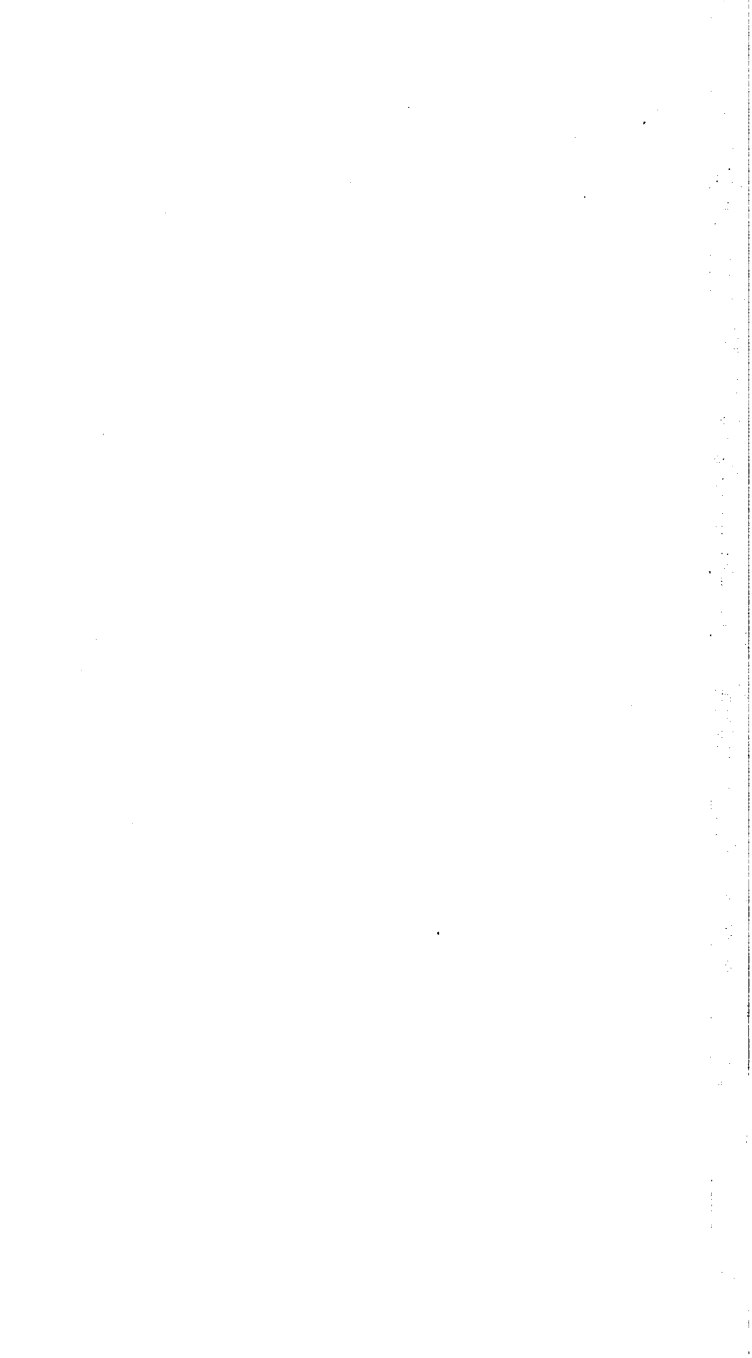
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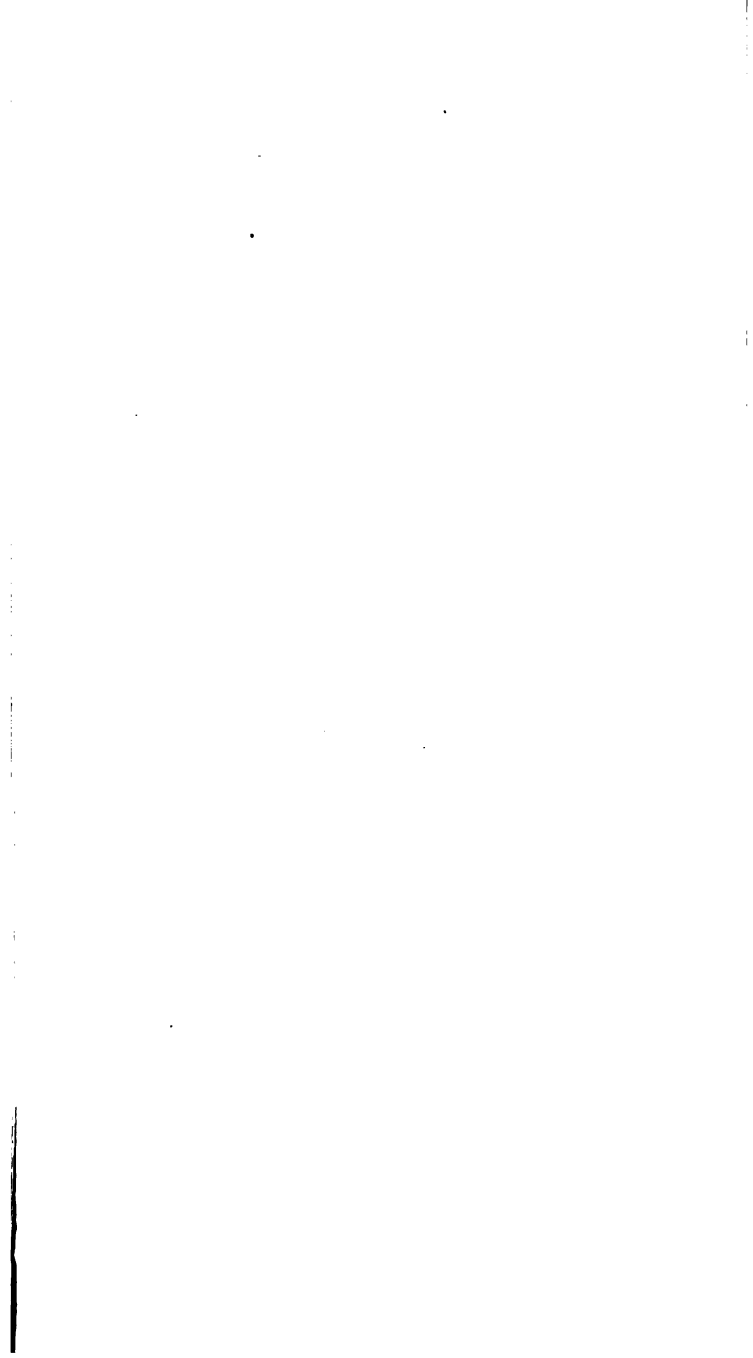


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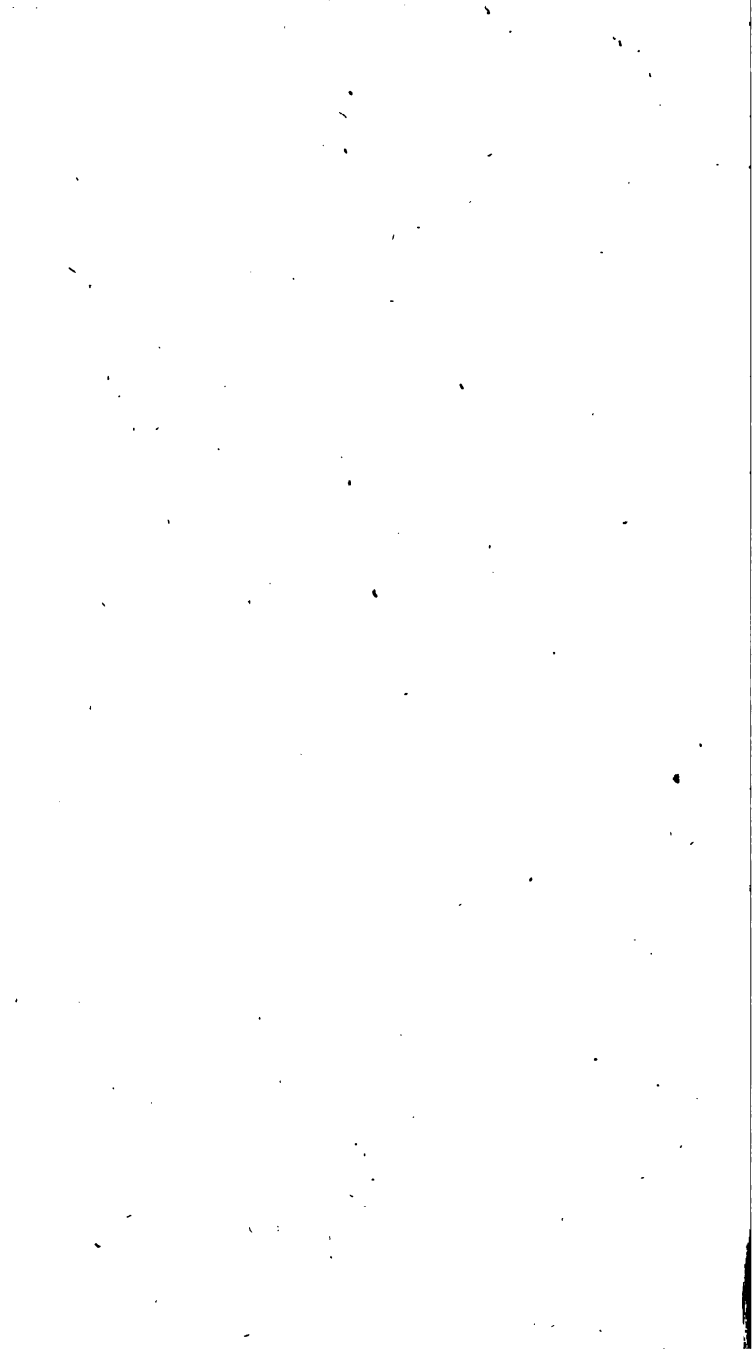


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Dumbarton
Glen
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HISTORY
OF
THE TOWN AND CASTLE
OF
DUMBARTON,

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TILL THE PRESENT TIME.

By JOHN GLEN.

DUMBARTON.

E. D. OGILVIE, W. CONNOLLY, AND J. NEILSON.

GREENOCK: BROWN & McALLUM.

PORT-GLASGOW: JOHN DOUGLAS. PAISLEY: ROBERT STEWART.

GLASGOW: GEORGE GALLIE AND J. McLEHOSK.

1847.

M. S. C.

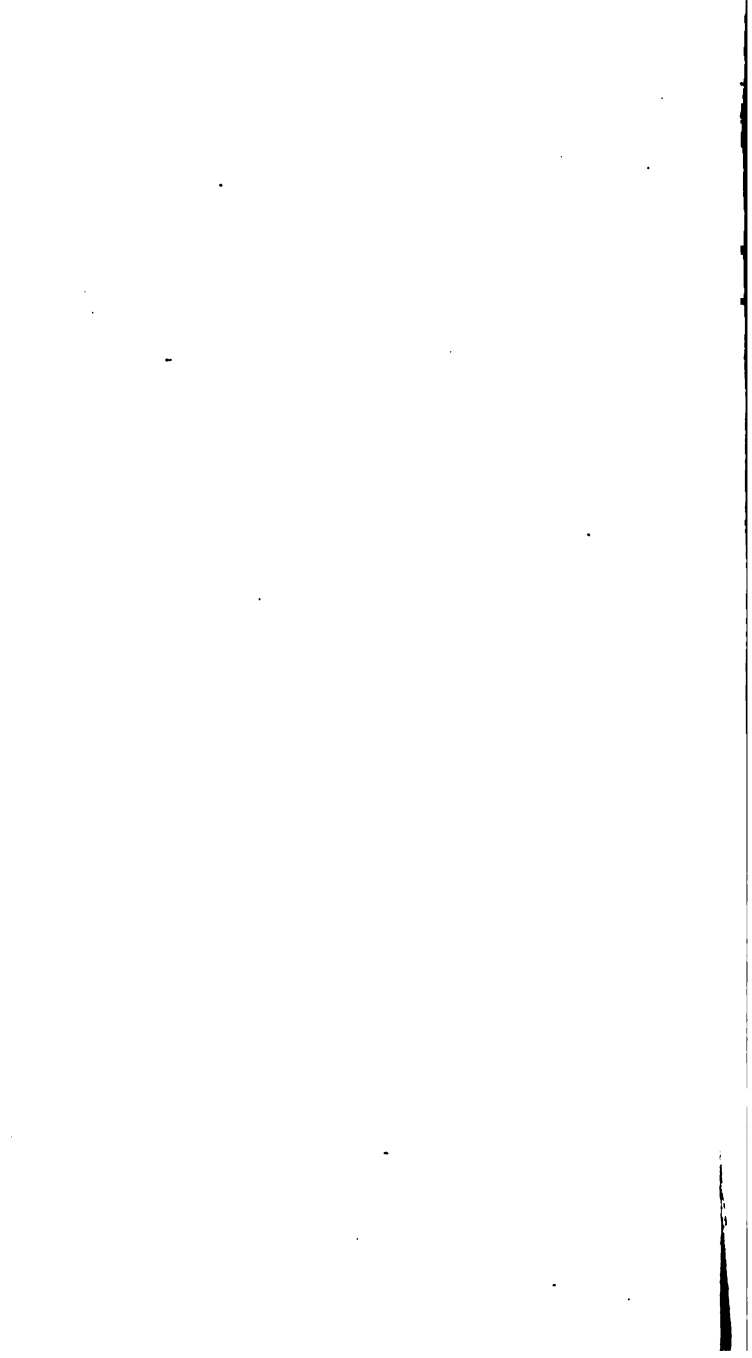


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P R E F A C E.

DURING his leisure hours of relaxation from business, for the last twenty years, the Author of the following pages has taken great mental delight in perusing old books and ancient documents, for the purpose of culling and collecting some scattered fragments of the history of his native place. An opportunity was afforded last winter of throwing these *memoranda* together, and delivering them in Lectures before the members of the Mechanics' Institution of this Town. The essence of these now appear on the pages of this unpretending little volume. It has been undertaken at the request of friends, and by the solicitation of the Directors of that valuable Institution. It is therefore launched into the world under their benign auspices. An author once published a book with this title, "Pen, ink, and paper well employed." It would be not a little presumptuous in him to imagine that his humble unostentatious production deserved the above designation; but still he might have employed these useful materials, during hours of relaxation, to purposes of less utility, than in thus sketching a brief outline of the history of the ancient "City of Alcluith." He has only acted the part of a rough pioneer, in digging anxiously for matter amongst musty volumes, ancient and modern; and the materials thus thrown together may prove useful to the future Historian.

DUMBARTON, 1st February, 1847.



TO

ALEX. SMOLLETT, ESQ. OF BONHILL,

M. P. for Dumbartonshire.

SIR,

Permit me to dedicate to you, as a worthy descendant and representative of an honourable and ancient Family, connected not only with the County, but also with the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton, the following pages—the result of my researches into the antiquities of my native Town and its neighbourhood.

Your own deep interest in, and well known public exertions on, behalf of the surrounding district and community of Dumbarton, have induced me to offer this humble tribute of respect and gratitude, for your patriotic and valuable services, as well as esteem for your many private virtues.

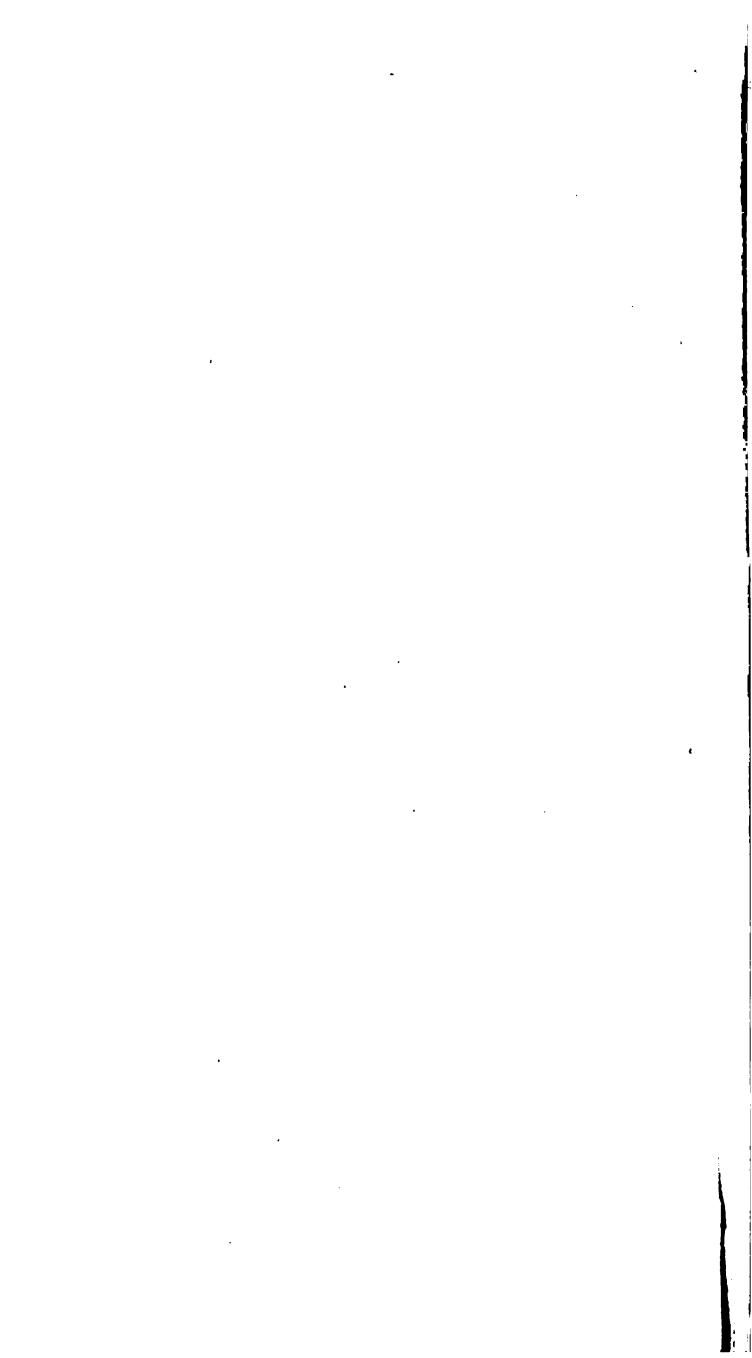
I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

DUMBARTON, 1st March, 1847.



CONTENTS.

	Page
PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON THE ANCIENT GENERAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND,	9
INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO OUR OWN LOCAL HISTORY,	11
PART I.—ANCIENT HISTORY OF DUMBARTON,	15
<p>Roman Invasion—Lochlomond, the Lyncalidor of the Romans—Ancient Alcluith—its situation—the Atticotti Tribe, its original inhabitants—Noble Defence against the Roman Army—Conquered—Revolted—Reconquered again, and Destroyed under the Victorious Arms of the Roman General Theodosius—Alcluith Rebuilt in the year 368 by the Roman General, and called Theodosia—The Wall of Antoninus between the Clyde and Forth—Description of Ancient Caledonia, by Dio and Herodian, Roman Writers—Alcluith called Petraclothe—Balclutha—Dunbritton—The Seat of the Kings of the Ancient Britons—Roderick Hall, the Bountiful King of the Britons—Alcluith conquered by Eadgbert King of Northumberland, and Ungust King of the Picts, in 756—Laid in Ashes on the 1st of January, 782—Besieged again by the Danes and Norwegians in 872, and Destroyed—Merlin the Wild, an Ancient Poet of Alcluith—Chronological List of the Ancient Kings who Reigned at Alcluith—List of Ancient Historians, Natives of Alcluith or its Immediate Vicinity—St. Patrick—Gildas Albanus—Annerin—Merlinus Caledonius, or Merlin the Wild—Specimen of Ancient Poetry—Dress of the Ancient Britons—Funeral Rites—Age—Columba, the Apostle of the Highlands and Founder of the Ionian Monastery—Supposed to be the Founder of the Ancient Church and College at Alcluith, now called the “College Bow”—Short Sketch of his Life, Sickness, and Death—Extraordinary Visions—Singular Modern Feast to the Ionian Children, in 1825—Beautiful Hymn Composed on the occasion.</p>	
PART II.	40
<p>Dunstaffnage Castle, the Ancient Residence of the Scottish Kings—The Royal Stone of Dunstaffnage was Jacob’s Pillow on the Plains of Bethel—the Earls of Lennox—Tobias Smollett—Beautiful Ode on the River Leven—His Letter as to the Ancient Site of Alcluith—His Monument at Renton—Tradition as to the Name of the River Leven—Ancient Seat of Lennox—Their Illustrious Family Descent—Ancient Port of Murroch—Dunbarton erected into a Royal Burgh—Hatred of Edward the First against Scotland—His Death—Hardinage, a Scottish Chronicler—His Lines on the Castle—Blind Harry, the Scottish Minstrel—His Tale of the Celebrated warrior Wallace—Singular Exploit of the patriot Wallace within the Burgh—Brief Notice of his Life and Noble Deeds—Edward of England offers a Reward of Three Hundred Marks for his Head—Betrayed by Sir John Monteith—Seized, carried to London, and Beheaded in Westminster Hall—The Noble Patriot Bruce, the Deliverer of his Country—Brief Notice of his Illustrious Life and Career—Capture of his Wife and Daughter in a Scottish Monastery, by a Party of English Soldiers—His last Illness and Death, which took place at Castle Hill, in the Parish of Cardross, and Vicinity of this Burgh—A great Plague broke out in Scotland in the year 1361—Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, died of the Plague in the</p>	

Prison of Dumbarton Castle—A great Famine in Scotland in the year 1339—Curious Extract of an Act of the Scottish Parliament, in 1288, on Marriage—Robert the Third Coins Money in Dumbarton—George Buchanan, the Classical Historian, sent to the Burgh School of Dumbarton—Brief Description of Loch and Benlomond—with the battle of Glenfruin, betwix the Colquhouns and Macgregors, and supposed slaughter of 150 Dumbarton young Students.

PART III.—HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND CASTLE OF DUMBARTON.... 68

The Collegiate Church at Dunbritton, founded by Isabella, Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox—Hospital or Almshouse attached—Superiority and Patronage of this Religious Establishment in the hands of the Dukes of Lennox—Gifted by them to the Monks of Kilwinning—the Lady Altar—The Altar of the Holy Cross—a Chapel founded in the Castle at an early age—Adam, a Chaplain, mentioned—the Patronage of the Parish Church vested in the Magistrates by Royal Charter in the year 1618—Claimed by the Earl of Eglintoun in 1739—Description of the Old Parish Church and Erection of the New in 1811—a Relique of Antiquity.

PART IV.—HISTORY OF THE CASTLE AND TOWN OF DUMBARTON.... 77

Haco King of Norway's Expeditions to the Firth of Clyde—His Capturing the Islands of Lochlomond and surrounding Country—The consequent Battle of Largs, with the complete Discomfiture of his Fleet and Army by the Scots, in the Reign of Alexander III. 1263—Dumbarton the principal Naval Station of Kings James IV. and V.—Description of a large Ship built by James IV. at Tullibarden—Infant Queen Mary carried to Dumbarton Castle for safety—embarked to France for her Education—John Duke of Albany arrives from France at the Harbour of Dumbarton—The Earl of Lennox in possession of the Castle in 1544, during his contention for the Regency—Earl of Morton a Prisoner there—Lord George Douglas created Earl of Dumbarton by Charles II.—Fortress taken through stratagem by the Covenanters, in 1639—Recaptured by the Royal Forces—Retaken again by the Covenanters, under the command of the Earl of Glencairn—Robert Ker of Kersland, a landed Gentleman in Lanarkshire, who was zealously attached to the principles of the Reformation, a Prisoner in the Castle—His Petition to the Privy Council of Scotland—Dumbarton Castle taken by escalade under the Command of Captain Crawford of Jordanhill—Inventory of the Cannons, Bullets, and Provisions, &c. taken—Description of the "Gallow Flail," an ancient Military Weapon found in the Castle.

PART V..... 95

General Description of Dumbarton Castle—It became a Royal Fortress in 1238—The Armoury—The Magazine—the Lover's Leap—Interesting Legendary Tale regarding it—General Symeon, a French Prisoner—Mr. John Cameron, a leather merchant in Greenock, and Radical Reformer, immured in the Dungeon of the Fortress in 1819—Nocturnal Invasion of the Radical Village of Duntocher by the Dumbarton Volunteers—They Return to the Royal Burgh with Trophies of their Victory—Ancient manner of conducting Funeral Ceremonies in the Burgh.

PART VI.....108

The Lochlomond Expedition in the Year 1715, undertaken for effectually checking the progress of the Highland Marauders, composed chiefly of the Clan Gregor, headed by the notorious Rob Roy Macgregor, in the low country; in which expedition the Dumbartonians took a very active part—A Curious Statement of the Burgh and County's Extraordinary Expense on the Occasion—Election of a Member of Parliament for the Burgh—Brief Sketch of Exemptions on the River Clyde.

APPENDIX,135

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN AND CASTLE OF DUMBARTON,

FROM THE REMOTEST PERIOD.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON THE ANCIENT GENERAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

THE ancient History of Scotland has furnished abundant matter for speculation to the antiquary and the curious. Scottish historians in general have consigned over to fable the first eight or nine centuries of our national history—a period some parts of which teem with a great deal of interest. We do not deny, however, that some fabulous legends may have been intermingled with some of the lives of our early Kings; but, on the other hand, wherever we find parts of our early history corroborated by Roman and other authors, we are bound to give our belief to the record. War—savage war—has slain his millions, his tens of millions, of the human family. This kingdom suffered awfully at a very early period by the bloody march of this horrid demon.

From Fergus, the first King of Scotland, whose reign began 330 years before the Christian era, till Eugenius the Second, whose reign ended in the year 404 after the birth of Christ—a period comprehending the reign of forty Kings,—all these Kings, with only a few exceptions, were either killed in battle, or betrayed and murdered, or poisoned by their own friends and menials. These Kings were all buried in Dunstaffnage—a strong ancient castle near Loch Etive, in Argyllshire, and formerly one of the splendid royal palaces of the Scottish

Kings. Again, from the reign of Eugenius the Second, in 404, till the reign of Malcolm Canmore, in 1057, comprehending a period of 650 years—during which forty-six Kings reigned—all these Kings also, with only two or three exceptions, shared the same fate. The monster War cut them down—or the treachery of friends often sent them to an early tomb. These latter were mostly all buried in Icolumbkill—or Iona—a famed island in the west, to which island we will turn attention more particularly in the course of this brief history. After this period Dunfermline generally became the future place of sepulture of the Kings of Scotland.

If these wars have made such awful havoc amongst our early Scottish Kings, the question may be asked, what must they have done on the population generally? The reply is, the horrid monster swept them off in thousands, leaving nothing but ruin and desolation in his bloody train. So undaunted and courageous in their battles were the Scots, and Picts, and Britons, that it was not rare to see two armies meet in battle array, with twenty or thirty thousand men each, commence the bloody carnage, and before sun-set—as in one instance—the whole Pictish army laid dead and dying on the field—only one man escaping, who swam a river, and conveyed the sad tidings to the capital of the Pictish kingdom!! Such as these were wars of savage bloodshed and extermination.

About 220 years before the Christian era, the Scots and Picts had a pitched battle, and there were such numbers killed on both sides that an ancient historian remarks, “By this unhappy battle was such terrible slaughter that neither Scots nor Picts were left living sufficient to inhabit their realms, nor to withstand their common enemies the Romans.” We hesitate a little to make the following moral reflection, but historical truth impels us. We say, we are afraid that the principles of extermination by savage wars such as these have guided some of the polished cabinets of modern Europe for a century or two past. Where is the equity of that policy which sends disciplined armies to our Indian Provinces, to kill and to drive back into the interior the lawful possessors of the soil, and to occupy their lands, not by price, but by the power of the sword? Is there not a great deal of this principle mingled in the British Legislature, in their present treatment of the aboriginal inhabitants of New Zealand, in driving them into the

interior, cutting them off, and seizing on their lands? This was exactly what the insatiable Roman armies did to the Britons, the Scots, and the Picts. The Scots and Britons were, nevertheless, as often victorious as their Roman invaders. They were never finally subdued, nor ever became permanently tributary to the Roman arms.

Caratacus, a Scottish King, who reigned about the 35th year of the Christian era, was one of the wealthiest Kings of ancient times. He had amassed a vast amount of riches. He and the King of the Picts unitedly raised an army of 125,000 men to meet their Roman invaders. In this battle the strength of the Roman army does not appear. The result, however, was, that Plancius, the Roman general, with his well disciplined soldiers, cut down the confederate armies, leaving only 600 Picts; and the few surviving Scots who escaped were pursued to the mountains.

Their King Caratacus was wounded, and with great difficulty was brought to his castle at Dunstaffnage. Shortly thereafter Vespasian, the Roman Emperor, sent ambassadors to Caratacus, promising, if he would be obedient to the Roman Empire and arms, he would be held in honour, and be reputed and holden as a friend to the Senate and people of Rome. His reply to the ambassadors of the Emperor was noble—yea, bold and courageous, and breathes something of the daring and martial spirit of the times—"Tell your master, the Emperor, that I will never submit to the Roman arms: my kingdom is my own, as much as the kingdom of Rome is Vespasian's." May not the Indian and the New Zealander say to our Government—"Our land is our own, why drive us away from it, and kill us, to take an unjust possession?"

INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS

RELATING TO OUR OWN LOCAL HISTORY.

THE study of Ancient and Modern History, containing the rise and fall of Empires and Kingdoms, is just the study of fallen man in his varied condition on the theatre of time. On this

account the public records of nations are most valuable—ought to be preserved with the greatest care, and handed down un-mutilated to succeeding ages. Of what is a Nation's history chiefly composed? It is composed not only of its conquests, and of its defence against invading armies, and the lawless aggressions of foreign foes; but it is also formed of the local history of its several provinces, its counties, and its burghs. We find, from ancient history and other authentic documents, that this County and Burgh has afforded only a very meagre share of material for the pen of the antiquary and the historian. Situated as our Burgh then was on the very verge of the Highlands, and almost in the very centre of the civil commotions which convulsed the west of Scotland from the twelfth till the middle of the eighteenth century, we doubt not but her records could have furnished a considerable portion of interesting matter, tending to show her position and share in the momentous transactions of these early times. Even long previous to that epoch, we are proud to say that her name has been recorded in the early pages of our country's history—yes, even from the remotest ages. What of ancient musty manuscript documents may be in the possession of the burgh is unknown. How many valuable ancient public papers may be piled up amongst the private parcels, cased within the iron doors and ashler repositories of the Burgh and County, we know not; but we think, if an eagle-eyed antiquarian annalist was placed for a few weeks in the midst of the various piles, with a persevering research, he might yet shed a greater portion of light on some of the darker pages of our national and local history. From the burgh records we learn that a most valuable ancient document was once in the possession of the Town Council, but is not now—a document that, to the Scottish historian, has thrown a flood of light on the public transactions of the west of Scotland during the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. We at present refer to the Chartulary of Lennox, which the Burgh was in possession of during the sixteenth and seventeenth and the former part of the eighteenth centuries. When or by what means we became custodiers of that record of former times is unknown. It is more than likely, however, that some branch of the ancient house of Lennox, during the convulsions of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, sent them to lie in the repositories and under the safe-keeping

of the Burgh—herself being immediately under the formidable protection of the great guns of the neighbouring fortress in these troublous times.

In the Council records, dated 25th October, 1777, there appears a minute to the above import, at the end of which the Council enjoins the then Town Clerk to draw up a regular inventory of all the town's papers and other records, and for which, it appears, he was allowed the sum of £5:5s. Of what this inventory was composed, where it has gone to, or whether it is yet in existence, are problems which futurity can alone solve.

From the Mortification Fund record it may be seen, that in the year 1685, during the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, the Town Council, being then afraid of their own records, sent them from the burgh repositories to the iron chest of the Mortification Fund, which lay in the Hospital or Alms' House attached to the Collegiate Church, erected here by the beneficence of the Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox, in the year 1450. It appears that this iron chest, in which all these valuable public documents were deposited, was in existence about the year 1750; however, no vestige of it or of its contents can now be found. In 1685, and even previous to that period, a great many of the burgh and other public and national records were either dispersed or destroyed.

In 1296, when civil commotions betwixt the two kingdoms of Scotland and England were at their height, and when Baliol, Wallace, and Bruce, fought for the independence of Scotland, Edward the First, the English monarch, wished to obliterate everything that could testify the national independence; and in order to this, after obtaining a partial victory at this period over the armies of the former Scottish Prince, he carried off and mutilated a great many of the national records, ransacking burghs, towns, and monasteries for them. John De Fordun, however, who lived in the fourteenth century, collected with pious industry the broken fragments of history that remained, and formed them into an authentic treatise.

Under the reign of Edward the Third, these charters, records, and documents thus carried off were, by King Robert Bruce, solemnly stipulated to be faithfully restored to Scotland in 1328.

During the short reign, and under the Commonwealth of

Oliver Cromwell, many of the national and other records were again destroyed or lost, or by his orders pilfered and carried into England. Of these records, many belonging to Scotland were carried away by him, to secure our servile dependence on him and the English Crown. So many as eighty-five hogsheads of these records were lost on the 16th December, 1660, in a ship belonging to Kirkaldy, as she was returning with them from London. As to the Church records and registers, a great many of them were also amissing through the confusion of the then civil wars, or probably they fell into the hands of the prelates while prelacy prevailed in Scotland.

As to the ecclesiastical history of Dumbarton, little or no light can be thrown upon it apart from the Presbytery records, to which we doubt whether easy access could be found. In the meantime, we have only to allude to the revered names of the reverend Messrs. Blair, Anderson, Sideserf, Freebairn, and Oliphant, servants whom we believe laboured faithfully in the cause of the Gospel and of the Saviour—five noble champions of revealed truth, who spent their valuable lives in the service of their Divine Master; and whose worthy memories we hope will yet be snatched from unmerited oblivion by the pen of some heavenly-minded Dumbartonian.

PART I.

ANCIENT HISTORY OF DUMBARTON.

Roman Invasion—Lochlomond, the Lyncalidor of the Romans—Ancient Alcluith—its situation—the Atticotti Tribe, its Original Inhabitants—Noble Defence against the Roman Army—Conquered—Revolted—Reconquered again, and Destroyed under the Victorious Arms of the Roman General Theodosius—Alcluith Rebuilt in the year 368 by the Roman General, and called Theodosia—The Wall of Antoninus between the Clyde and Forth—Description of Ancient Caledonia, by Dio and Herodian, Roman Writers—Alcluith called Petraclothe—Balclutha—Dunbritton—The Seat of the Kings of the Ancient Britons—Roderick Hail, the Bountiful King of the Britons—Alcluith conquered by Eadgbert King of Northumberland, and Ungust King of the Picts, in 756—Laid in Ashes on the 1st of January, 782—Besieged again by the Danes and Norwegians in 872, and Destroyed—Merlin the Wild, an Ancient Poet of Alcluith—Chronological List of the Ancient Kings who Reigned at Alcluith—List of Ancient Historians, Natives of Alcluith or its Immediate Vicinity—St. Patrick—Gildas Albanus—Anuerin—Merlinus Caledonius, or Merlin the Wild—Specimen of Ancient Poetry—Dress of the Ancient Britons—Funeral Rites—Age—Columba, the Apostle of the Highlands and Founder of the Ionian Monastery—Supposed to be the Founder of the Ancient Church and College at Alcluith, now called the "College Bow"—Short Sketch of his Life, Sickness, and Death—Extraordinary Visions—Singular Modern Feast to the Ionian Children, in 1825—Beautiful Hymn Composed on the occasion.

ROMAN INVASION.—When the Romans with their victorious armies entered Caledonia, the land of the Picts, we find their historians, in describing the northern boundaries of their conquests, frequently alluding to this ancient Town, at a very early period, under the name of Alcluith or Alcluyd. The Atticotti, a very powerful and formidable tribe, who dwelt along the northern banks of the river Clyde, were its then possessors. Atticotti is a name importing dwellers along the extremity of the Caledonian woods. The descendants of this people were never entirely suppressed or banished from their hunting grounds by their Roman invaders. Ptolemy, a Roman writer,

says that the Gadeni, another tribe of the original inhabitants, dwelt on the southern banks of the Clyde. Pinkerton, in his inquiry into the Historical Antiquities of Scotland, maintains beyond a doubt that the Atticotti tribe were the ancient inhabitants of Dumbartonshire, and he quotes Richard of Cirencester, an ancient historian, who corroborates this. (See book I. chap. 6.) The translation of the passage, from the original Latin of Richard, is as follows:—"The Atticotti tribe still inhabited somewhat lower down the banks of the Clotto (or Clyde), a nation then and afterwards formidable to the whole of Britain. Here was seen a great lake (Lochlomond), the name of which formerly was Lyncalidor; near the mouth of which the town of Alcluith, founded by the Romans, stood; a name bestowed upon it a short time previously by the Roman general Theodosius, who had retaken the province occupied by the barbarians. With this no town could be compared, because it had sustained to the last the assaults of the Roman enemy after the other surrounding provinces had been entirely subjugated."

The town of Alcluith was thus situated in the immediate vicinity, and formed the pleasant and delightful western suburb of the extensive Roman wall erected between the Clyde and the Forth. Though a barbarous province, it would seem that at first it nobly refused to submit to the cruel thralldom of a foreign foe, but was at length conquered. It however scorned to become tributary to its enemies, and again revolted from the Roman yoke. Shortly afterwards it was again recovered by the victorious Roman soldiers, led on by their intrepid general Theodosius. It appears, from ancient Roman and other authors, that this "City of Alcluith" (for so it was called) was founded and built by this Roman general.

In the year 367, the Roman Emperor Valentinian the First sent again Theodosius his general to Britain against the Picts and Scots, who not only repelled them, but seized on their lands between the walls, and erected them into a province called after the name of the Emperor Valencia. He strongly fortified its northern and western borders, between the Clyde and the Forth; and in the year 368 built Theodosia or Alcluith as a stronghold and frontier town. Hence this place was afterwards considered by Bede and other historians as the grand limit between the Britons and Picts. (See Richard, book I. chap. 7.)

The descendants of the Atticotti tribe long inhabited the northern borders and banks of the Clyde. After many ages of war and numerous conflicts with other tribes, who greatly envied them their attractive country, they were much despoiled; yet they still remained in their ancient domains at the decease of Bede, who was a monkish historian, and who died in the year 734. They were still recognised as a distinct and separate people even for some ages after.

The Romans voluntarily abandoned Britain about the year 409 after the Christian era. The Britons, however, about the year 421, requested their assistance against the Picts and Scots. The Roman army arrived and repelled the enemy, and caused the Britons to build a turf wall or rampart on the march between the Clyde and the Forth, as the former wall had been thrown down entirely. Bede gives a very distinct and minute account of this wall (See book I. chap. 12), which reaches, he says, "from the vicinity of the city of Alcluith to a place about two miles west of Abercorn, situated on the south bank of the Forth, called Cairn-in." The wall of Antoninus was built of turf upon a stone foundation, and was about four yards or twelve feet thick. The Roman legions employed to erect it were the second, the sixth, and the twentieth, and three legions when complete would amount to thirty-six thousand men—each Roman legion built four miles and six hundred and sixty-six paces of this wall.

The only remains now of this wall intersect the parishes of Kilsyth and New Kilpatrick, and are to be seen at Dunglass on the verge of the Clyde. There is also a bridge of two arches at the village of Duntocher. These ancient relicts are now above 1400 years old. This bridge became very much delapidated, but was improved and repaired under the direction, and at the expense of, the late Lord Blantyre, who restored the original inscription, which is chiseled on a large stone placed in the building—his Lordship appending an addition to it, commemorative of his laudible taste and zeal for classical antiquities. The inscription is in Latin. The English translation runs thus :—"This bridge was built under the auspices of the Emperor Titus Elius Antoninus Hadrianus Augustus, father of his country, by Quintus Lollius Urbicus, his lieutenant : being almost ruinous, it was restored by Lord Blantyre, in the year of our Lord 1772."

The following description of the ancient Caledonians is given by Dio, a Roman historian at the period when Severus the Roman Emperor invaded their country in the year 183 : it will be found very striking and interesting.

He says—"Of the barbaric Britons there are two great nations, called the Caledoni and the Mæatæ, for the rest are generally comprehended in these. The Mæatæ dwell near the great wall which divides the island into two parts ; the Caledonians inhabit beyond them. They both possess rugged and dry mountains and desert plains full of marshes. They have neither castles nor towns, nor do they cultivate the ground, but live chiefly on their flocks and by their hunting, and the fruits of some trees. They eat no fish, though very plentiful. They live in rude tents, quite naked, and without buskins. Wives they have in common, and breed up all their children in common. Their general form of government is democratic. They are addicted to robbery, fight in cars, and have very small swift horses. Their infantry are remarkably speedy in running, and also remarkable for boldness and firmness in standing to front an enemy. Their armour consists of a shield and a short spear, in the lower end of which is a large brazen apple, whose sound, when it is struck, often terrifies an enemy : they have also daggers. Famine, cold, and all sorts of labour they can bear, for they will even stand in their marshes for many days up to the neck in water, and in the woods will live on the bark and roots of trees. They prepare a certain kind of food on many occasions, of which, taking only a bit the size of a bean, they feel neither hungry nor thirsty for a long period. Such is Britain, and such are the inhabitants of that land which so boldly stood out against the Romans. That it is an island has been shown before. Its length is seven thousand one hundred and thirty-two stadia (eight stadia is about an English mile). Its utmost breadth two thousand three hundred and ten stadia : its least breadth three hundred stadia. Of this island not much less than the half is conquered by Severus, and he, wishing to reduce the whole under his own power, entered into Caledonia. In his march he met with unspeakable difficulties, in cutting down woods, levelling eminences, raising banks across marshes, and building bridges across rivers. He fought no battles, the enemy never appearing in battle array ; but they advisedly placed sheep and oxen in the way of our

troops, that, while our soldiers attempted to seize them, and by the fraud were drawn into defiles, they might be the more easily cut off. The lakes likewise were destructive to our men, in dividing them, so that they fell into ambuscades; and while they could not be brought off, were slain by our own army, that they might not fall into the hands of the enemy. Owing to these causes, there died no less than fifty thousand of our troops. Severus, however, did not desist till he had reached the extreme part of the island, when he diligently remarked the diversity of the solar course, and the length of the day and night in summer and winter. At last, after having been carried through most of the hostile land, (for because of his weakness he was generally borne in an open litter,) he returned to the friendly parts of the island; the Northern barbaric Britons being forced to conclude a kind of alliance, on condition that they should yield up to them a small part of their country."

Dio then relates that Severus, in a conference with the Caledonians, had almost been slain by his son Antoninus Caracalla. He then adds—"After this the fierce Britons again revolted; upon which Severus, assembling his whole army, ordered them to invade the country and to give no quarter: repeating these exterminating lines of poetry—

'Let none escape your hands and cruel slaughter;
Not even the babe yet guiltless in the womb.'

Herodian, another historian, adds—"In the first place, Severus took care to cover the marshes securely with bridges, so that his soldiers might stand and fight on solid ground—for many places in Britain are rendered swampy by the frequent inundations of the ocean; and through these marshes the barbarians themselves often swim or wade, sunk to their bellies in mud, and frequently naked, regardless of the slime—for they are ignorant of the use of clothes. They encircle their belly and neck with iron, thinking this an ornament and a proof of riches, in the same manner as gold is done with other barbarians. Besides, they mark their bodies with various pictures, and the forms of a variety of animals, on which account they do not clothe themselves, least they should cover the paintings of their bodies; but they are a most warlike people, and rejoice in slaughter. Their arms consist of a nar-

row shield and lance, with a sword hanging by their naked bodies. They are almost entirely unacquainted with the use of a coat of mail or a helmet, thinking these impediments in passing through their marshes, which are generally covered with vapours, and dark with exhalations."

Solinus, another Roman historian, (chap. 25,) says—"The Caledonians and Britons are savage and warlike. After battle, the victors stain their faces with the blood of their slaughtered enemies. If a woman be delivered of a man-child, his very first food is placed upon the sword of her husband, and gently put into its little mouth with the point of the weapon, while the affectionate mother earnestly offers up her vows that her son may not meet death but in the battle-field and in arms."

Having given you an authentic description, by Roman authors, of our remote ancestors, in their savage state and their rude warlike appearance, allow me now to add a very short extract as to their gross idolatry and cruel mode of worship.

Sammes, an ancient historian, in his antiquities of Britain, observes—"The natives did homage to the idol Rugyvith, who had seven faces; to the idol Porevith, who had five heads; and to Porenuth, who had four faces pertaining to his head, and one face to his breast." (Page 454.) This author, in treating of the gods of the ancient Britons, mentions, among other things, that they sacrificed human beings to their idols. "They made," says he, "a statue or image of a man of vast dimensions, whose limbs consisted of twigs woven together after the manner of basket work; these they filled with living men, and then set it on fire and consumed them in the flames." (Page 104.)

The Caledonians, Scots, and Picts, appeared to have resembled each other in manners and ferocity, and to have exercised this last quality without scruple on the Roman colonists. These nations often converted their shaggy and matted hair into a species of natural head-dress, which served either for helmet or mask, as was deemed necessary. Their houses were generally constructed of wattles, or in more dangerous times they burrowed under ground in long narrow tortuous excavations, some of which still exist, and the idea of which seems to have been suggested by a rabbit-warren. Even over these wild people, inhabiting a country as savage as themselves, "the sun of Righteousness arose with healing under his wings."

Good men, such as Columba and his followers, on whom the name of "saint" (not used then in a superstitious sense) was justly bestowed, and to whom life and the pleasures of this world were as nothing, so they could but call perishing sinners to embrace the gospel,—such devoted men nobly undertook, under Divine grace, and happily succeeded, in the perilous task of enlightening these ignorant savages in the sublime truths of Christianity.

We have now laid before our readers a short sketch of what our native land originally was in bygone ages ; thus preparing their already well-informed minds for the early history of our own favoured spot ; where our rude Atticotti forefathers ranged the woods and deserts in all the wildness of their uncivilised habits.

How ought we now to hail with sincere gratulation the wonderful and astonishing changes which have taken place in our happy country since the first dawn of civilisation, and especially since the bright sun of Christianity arose and shone upon the British Islands. Let us therefore join in handing round the blessed gospel to other savage and idolatrous nations, as was done to our ancestors soon after the dawn of the Christian era.

DUMBARTON.—The name of this town appears to have undergone several changes through the lapse of ages. It seems to have been closely conjoined with that of its romantic rock and castle, which stands in the immediate vicinity. Many ancient authors have supposed it to have been the Balclutha of Ossian, who wrote in the fourth century ; the fall of which is thus beautifully described by Carthon, its then owner. "I have seen the walls of Balclutha, but they were desolate. The fire had resounded in the halls, and the voice of the people is heard no more. The stream of Clutha was removed from its place by the fall of the walls. The thistle shakes there its lonely head. The fox looks out from the window ; the rank grass of the walls wave around his head. Desolate is the dwelling of Moina ; silence is in the house of her fathers. I come, said the great Classamor, in my bounding ship, to Balclutha's walls of towers. The wind had roared behind my sails, and Clutha's streams received my dark-bosomed vessel." (Ossian's poems, vol. i. pp. 78—80.)

The distinguished fortress under whose protection the town

has remained for ages secure, seems originally to have given name to it—Alcluyd or Alcluith ; Al, in Welsh, signifies Rock. Petracloethe means the Rock of Clyde. It was, from a very remote age, the royal seat or residence of a long succession of ancient kings of the Strathclyde Britons, who formerly reigned either within the walls of the castle or within the precincts of the town. Chalmers, in his Gazetteer, says, "That in very early times there was a church here, which was the ancient seat of the Reguli of the Strathclyde Britons." It is more than probable that this Church was the one supposed to be founded by Columba, and to which immediate reference will be made.

Adomnan, who was elected Abbot of Iona, or Icolumbkill, in the year 679, wrote the Life of Saint Columba, in three books. In the first book of the manuscript volumes—at present in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh—the fourteenth chapter runs thus : "A prophecy of the holy man (meaning St. Columba) concerning King Roderick, the son of Totail, who reigned at Petracloethe, or the Rock of the Clyde." This king is said to have been a very generous monarch, and was much praised by his cotemporaries. He is designated by some authors as "Rhyd-derech-hael, the bountiful King of the Britons on the Cluyd."

"The succeeding generations of the original Britons," says Camden, an early writer, "called this town Dunbritton, or the Fort of the Britons." We learn from the venerable historian Bede, that in his time the warlike Britons still remained predominant on the Clyde. (As quoted in Chalmers's Caledonia, vol. iii. p. 856.)

The year 756 is said by Hoveden and Camden, who wrote after him, to have been the epoch of the conquest of Alcluith or Dunbritton by Eadgbert, King of Northumberland, and Uengust, King of the Picts, who with their joint forces besieged the castle, and brought it to such desperate extremity that it was rendered to them by composition. The terms of surrender would seem to be those of tribute.

In 782, Alcluyd was laid in ashes, on the 1st of January, but by whom does not appear, as history does not record the names of the destructive invaders.

It was besieged again ninety years after, viz. in the year 872, by the Danes and Norwegians, under Olive and Ivar, their petty kings ; who, after besetting it four months, at

length destroyed it. There was a tradition about this time, that during this period the clouds rained blood for seven days all over Britain, and that even milk, cheese, and butter, were converted into blood.

This ancient town seems at a very early period to have been the royal residence and seat of the kings of the Strathclyde Britons, and the theatre of their bloody wars and conflicts with other rude tribes and nations. Rhyd-derech-hael, the Bountiful, fought a battle with two of his neighbouring petty princes—Guendolaw and Aedan, both of whom had revolted from their allegiance to his throne. Guendolaw, who fell in this battle, was a warm patron of “Merlin the Wild,” who was a native poet of, and who generally lived at, Alcluith, of whom the reader will hear by and bye. Roderick, as was remarked before, was a monarch so generous, that he had the epithet “Hael” appended to his name, which signifies liberal, bountiful; and he was so in all his words and actions, for which he was greatly extolled and praised. (See Pinkerton’s *Antiquities of Scotland*.)

In the *Life of Gildas*, published by Mabillon, a French writer, the author states that Gildas was born at Alcluith in the beginning of the fifth century; and that his father was a king of that country, and was succeeded by his elder son Hoel. He supposes the kingdom of the Strathclyde Britons to have included Dumbartonshire, Renfrewshire, and the upper part of Lanarkshire; and to have extended over all the Valentia of the Romans—being about eighty miles long and forty broad. Theodosia or Alcluith was generally regarded as the chief town in the province; and its strong fortress, naturally impregnable, was seen from afar towering, like the Acropolis of Corinth, on the top of a high rock rising from a level plain. It thus became of course the Capital of the kingdom. The following is a chronological list of the ancient kings who reigned at Alcluith over the Strathclyde Britons, according to the annals of Ulster, as quoted by Pinkerton in his *Antiquities of Scotland*:—

1. Caunus, King of Alcluith, reigned about A.D. 390.
2. Inwald reigned as King of Strathclyde, at Alcluith, in St. Ninnian’s time, or about the year 412.
3. Morti Arthur reigned about the year 460.
4. Constantine reigned about the year 510.

5. Guendolaw reigned about the year 540.
6. Rodericus, Roderick, or Rhyd-derech-hael, reigned in 560. [Jocelyn, a Popish monk, of Furness, in Lancashire, who wrote in 1180, states that "Langueth" was the name of Roderick's queen.]
7. Urien reigned in 575.
8. Hoel, son of Roderick, reigned about 585.
9. Morkin reigned in the year 590.
10. Guiret, King of Alclyde, died in the year 660.
11. Donal, son of Owen, King of Alcluith, died in the year 693.
12. Bile, King of the Britons of Strathcluyd, died in the year 724.
13. Artga, King of the Britons of Strathcluyd, was slain by Constantine, second King of the Picts, in 874.
14. Dunwallon, the last King of the Britons of Strathcluyd, in 972, went to Rome, and died there soon after.

I believe that some of my readers did not even imagine till now that our snug little burgh and its environs is regal and consecrated ground, on which a long list of ancient Kings reigned, and where savage warriors fought and fell. Yes, on yonder singular rock many a strange sanguinary scene has been transacted, and if the stones and rock were vocal they could tell many a tragic tale of barbaric cruelty and woe, perpetrated in days of darkness long since past, as well as in the more refined period of a later age. But, without moralising further at present, we now proceed to enumerate a list of historians to whom our ancient town and its suburbs has given birth.

The following ancient Writers and Historians are said to have had their birth-place at Alcluith or in its immediate vicinity :—

1st. Saint Patrick was born at Nemthur, near Alcluith or Dunbritton. (Nemthur is the Roman name of Old Kilpatrick, a village on the north banks of the Clyde, near the termination of the old Roman wall.) From his own name Patricius, he appears to have been originally of Roman extraction. He was born about the year 400, when the Roman army possessed Valentia. Some historians, however, have strenuously maintained that he was born in the city of Alcluith. (See Aikman's History of Scotland, vol. I. p. 220—note.)

2d. Gildas Albanus, or the British Gildas, was born at Alcluith about the year 425. His father Caunus was king of

that country, who was also father to Anuerin. This Gildas was a pious monk and historian.

3d. Anuerin, brother of the last named, was a poet. His poems were translated and published about the end of the seventeenth century.

4th. Merlin Caledonius, or "Merlin the Wild," was a native of Alcluith. This very extraordinary personage flourished in the time of Roderick Hail, the bountiful King of the Britons, and was thus a cotemporary with Kentigern or Saint Mungo, who erected the Cathedral Church of Glasgow, nearly 1300 years ago, and who lived about the year 570. A curious life of Merlin the Wild, in Latin verse, by Geoffrey of Monmouth, is still extant. By his singular habits and manners, in his going uncovered both in head and feet, with only a loose piece of coarse cloth or shaggy animal's skin wrapped about his naked body; and by living generally in woods and caves, with other singularities, he acquired in those rude ages the reputation of a prophet. The modern inhabitant of Dumbarton, in imagination, may think he sees him slowly pacing the now long inundated streets and lanes of ancient Alcluith, decked in the uncouth habiliments of savage life, uttering religious sentiments and strains of native poetry, which probably struck the hearers with reverence and awe. John Fordun, who wrote his history of Scotland in the year 1420, has a long tale concerning Merlin the Wild. (Book 3, p. 31, 32.) Several pages in the poems of Merlin clearly evince that his birth-place was Alcluith, and that his native country was Caledonia, the land of the Picts. Guendolaw, a king previously mentioned, was a warm patron of Merlin the Wild.

Poetry was much cultivated at an early period by the ancient Scots and Britons. The following is a specimen, and the translation of two stanzas :—

"Virgin with the beautiful face, learn my verses :

You remember them ; they will deceive your languid hours,

When your lover is far distant, and when the youth of your heart

Will appear in your memory.

"We stood together upon the green grass; when

The damsel with the beauteous locks and sweet countenance,

Embracing me with her arms, wept bitterly ;

And with linen whiter than snow, she

Wiped the thick falling tears from her radiant eyes."

In the year 575, and during the reign of King Urien, there flourished in his courts these three famous bards, Taliesin, Anuerin, who has been already mentioned, and Lynarch-Ken. Specimens of their rude poetry have been published by the historian Evans. These are a few of our native ancient poets and writers who arose, flourished, and faded on our own soil, and whose names have been thus collected from the rubbish of antiquity, and snatched from the grave of oblivion, to which they were quickly descending.

As a proof that learning was much cultivated at a very early period in Scotland, the abbots, priors, and monks of Iona, and other seminaries, excelled much in literature. Mackinnon and Mackenzie, two of the famed Ionian abbots, have their names inscribed on their tomb-stones on that island. An abbess, whose remains are said to moulder side by side, is designed, "Ann, the daughter of Donald, the son of Charles." The inscription is in Latin and Gaelic, and is still quite legible, although executed with the rude chisel more than a thousand years ago.

The public was greatly interested in the preservation of Iona, as it was at one period the repository of most of the Scottish records. The Ionian library—if we can depend on the testimony of Boethius, who was first principal of Aberdeen college—must have been invaluable. From that author we learn that Fergus Second, who assisted Alaric the Goth in the sacking of Rome, brought away a chest full of books, which he presented to the monastery of Iona. A small parcel of them was, in 1525, carried to Aberdeen, and great pains were taken to unfold and decipher them, but through great age very little of them could be read. The register and records of the island, however, were all written on parchment, and it is probable that they, along with more antique and valuable records, were all destroyed by the violent changes which took place at the Reformation, which, in many instances, was a war against history and science, as it was against idolatry and superstition. (See Pennant's Second Tour, page 167.) Genuine religion, science, and literature, were beyond a doubt nourished and cultivated in the fifth, sixth, and seventh centuries, by Saint Columba and his Ionian disciples, even to a considerable extent; yet in the succeeding centuries there followed a dark historical night, when scarcely a glimmering star appeared. But even amidst the

darkness of the middle ages there was always a faint twilight, like that auspicious gleam which in a summer's night fills up the interval between the setting and the rising sun. In Scotland not a native writer arose from the eighth till nearly the commencement of the thirteenth century. From 843 till 1056 is the most obscure period of Scottish history, and is often denominated "the leaden age." Thus there was a long dark night previous to the dawn of a clearer day. Indeed, over all Europe, as is well known, the ninth and tenth centuries form the deepest gloom between ancient and modern day. In the eighth century obscure night closes in upon us; but, in the twelfth and thirteenth, a new morning arises and shines onward to the bright effulgence of meridian day.

The terrors of war, during even the fifth and sixth centuries, drove the Christian Scots and Britons to seek refuge in the extremities of the island. From this period genuine religion began to decline in the country, and was fast approaching to a complete exit, when two circumstances, concomitant with the labours of Columba, contributed to its revival and establishment. Ethelbert, King of Kent, had married a Christian princess of the house of Clovis: in her marriage stipulations she had secured her right to maintain inviolate her religion. This event was a happy preparative to the mission which Gregory was induced to set on foot, from a circumstance which transpired some time before his elevation to the Pontificate. Walking in the market-place at Rome one day, he observed a number of youths exposed to sale: struck with their fine ruddy appearance, he asked their country; being told they were Angles, he replied, "They might with propriety be called angels. It is a pity (added he) that the Prince of Darkness should hold so fair a prey." Inquiring further into their province, he was informed that they came from Deiri (that is, Northumberland): "Deiri! (replied he) that is happy; they shall be snatched from God's wrath, and made heirs of mercy." Asking the name of their king, he was informed it was Ella: "Alleluia! (cried he) God's praises shall be sung in that country."

This association of ideas, however fanciful, produced considerable impression upon the mind of Gregory, and he offered himself as a missionary to Britain; but the Roman Church at that time opposing his wishes, he declined to insist on the experiment. But it seems that Gregory lost not the impulse;

for soon after his consecration, he looked out some agents whom he thought fit to carry forward the grand design.

In the year 597, Gregory matured his plan, and sent over forty monks or missionaries, with one at their head named Austin, a man of very singular qualifications. After combating many difficulties and many fears, these holy men arrived in the dominions of Ethelbert, and laid before him the design of their embassy. The prince received them courteously, and appointed them a suitable place of abode in the isle of Thanet. After a little time they were admitted to an audience, and suffered to open more fully the great object of their mission. Austin proceeded to lay before the king the principal doctrines of the Christian faith, and zealously urged the monarch to embrace that glorious dispensation which revealed a kingdom eternal in the heavens. "Your speech and promises," said Ethelbert, "are fair; but as they are novel and untried, I cannot yield my assent, and give up the principles so long embraced by my ancestors. You are at liberty, however, to continue here, without fear of molestation; and as you have performed so great a journey, entirely, as it seems, for what you believe to be for our advantage, I will that you be furnished with every necessary supply, and permit you to hold forth the faith of your religion to my subjects." Ethelbert accordingly appointed them a mansion in the royal city Dorobernium, now called Canterbury. Thus settled, Austin and his colleagues, attended with the auspices of the queen, proceeded to discharge the great duties of Christian missionaries, and the effect was that many were prevailed on to renounce idolatry and to be baptised into the faith of Christ. Among these converts was the king himself, which acquisition contributed greatly to forward the Christian cause. Thus, after toiling through a long dismal night of superstitious and heathen darkness, and regions of the shadow of death, a beam of gospel day, as the morning spread upon the mountains, revives the fainting spirit. (See Sabines' Church History.)

The Dalriads, a colony of the ancient Scoti, from Ireland, settled in Argyllshire at an early period, and thus became next neighbours to the early Britons in Strathclyde. They latterly formed a mutual alliance, and protected each other for a long period; although, in very early ages, their petty kings, with their respective navies, had many a deadly and sanguinary battle

on the Firth of Clyde. The ancient Scoti were continually passing and repassing the firth in their rude shaped "shallops, currachs, and crearies," to annoy and molest the courageous Britons on their own shores. The promontory and lands of Argyll, as possessed by this early tribe, was anciently called Dalriada. It is a singular fact, that Jocelyn, a monkish historian, mentioned already, who wrote in the eleventh century, says, "that the city of Glasgow, in the early ages of antiquity, was called Cathures"—probably this was its Roman name—and it was then only a small village: it is now supposed to be the largest city of the Empire. During the Roman period, and long after their departure, the original inhabitants, viz. the Atticotti and Dalriad tribes, inhabited the whole country from Lochfine; the Lilamonius of Richard, on the west; to the eastward, beyond the river Leven, and bounded by the Longcraig and Dumbuck, which were the southern termination of the range of the Grampian Mountains, in the vicinity of the Roman wall. These two races, however, were latterly immersed into, and incorporated with, and, in the course of ages, became undistinguished from, the Picts and Britons.

ACCOUNT OF THE BRITONS.—Their boats were usually made of osiers interwoven and covered with skins of wild beasts, being about five feet long and three broad, as appears from the historians Solinus, Gildas, and Ninius. **Their Dress.**—Gildas mentions (chap. 15) the Picts and Britons as being partly clothed, or at least generally girt about the middle with a kind of cloth: this was in the fifth century. In the sixth century, when Saint Columba lived, Adomnan his biographer drops no hint whatever of dress. It appears that the Caledonians, like the ancient Germans, went almost naked. Roman writers sometimes mention them as being naked; and, indeed, if we saw a savage with only a wild deer's skin thrown loosely over his shoulders, and the rest of his body quite uncovered, we would, like those writers, be inclined to call them naked. The primitive Celtic dress was only a skin loosely thrown over the shoulders, and a piece of coarse rude-made cloth tied round the middle. In the thirteenth century, however, the women among the ancient Scots were rather elegantly dressed. The bishop of Ross says, "that they were clothed with purple and embroidery of the most exquisite workmanship, with bracelets and necklaces on their arms and necks, so as to make a most graceful appearance."

FUNERAL RITES.—The bodies of the common people and of enemies were buried ; those of chiefs and kings burned, if opportunity allowed. When burned, the ashes were put into earthen urns, as was done among the Greeks and Romans.

AGE OF THE ANCIENT BRITONS.—"It is a very striking circumstance," says an early historian, "that the ancient Britons and Caledonians generally lived to a very great age—140 and 150—and many instances of some of them having lived to 160 years." This may be accounted for, in a great measure, by their having lived chiefly on the produce of the chase, and their drink being the pure unadulterated water of the running brook : in a word, they were real teetotalers.

SAINT COLUMBA.—Columba the apostle, as he has been called, of the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland, was the founder and first abbot of the famous monastery of Iona. Iona means "the Island of the Waves." It early became the light of the western world, whence savage nations derived the benefits of knowledge and the blessings of the Christian religion : it stands nine miles from Staffa, and is separated from the island of Mull by a small strait. In any other situation the remains of Iona would be consigned to neglect and oblivion ; but standing as it does the solitary monument of the religion and literature of past ages, its silent and ruined structures are, by the tourist and the traveller, contemplated with profound awe and veneration.

An account of the life of Columba was written in Latin by two of his successors, Cummin and Adomnan. The former wrote about sixty, and the latter about eighty-three years after his death. Their writings are often interspersed with marvellous details of visions and prophecies, to many of which the modern historian ought to pay little or no regard. Dr. Smith, late minister of Campbelton, wrote a history of the life of Columba, about the beginning of this century, from which some of the following short notices are gleaned :—We make these extracts from the life of this singular man, under the firm conviction and deep impression that the "College Bow" is an ancient Gothic vestige of one of Columba's religious and scientific seminaries ; and under whose benign influence many were erected, in the dark ages of the fifth and sixth centuries, in the west of Scotland, of which the Ionian was the principal and the origin. It is remarked by ancient writers, especially by

Jocelyn, (chap. 89,) that Columba erected more than 300 churches, colleges, and monasteries, in Scotland and Ireland. Saint Constantine, one of his disciples, is said, by Fordun the historian, to have presided over the monastery of Govan, upon the Clyde; and to have converted the people of Kintyre to the Christian faith, where he nobly suffered martyrdom. The college at Alcluith or Dumbarton is apparently of a very remote age, and most probably was founded by Columba, or some of his religious successors, under the auspices of Brudius the Seventh, a Pictish king, in 842, who, history says, erected the church and college of Lochleven. (See Pinkerton's *Antiquities of Scotland*.) In the chartularies of Lennox and Paisley our vicinity is expressly called Lochleven. (See charters of Lennox and Paisley.) The church, chapel, and adjoining hospital, which more modern historians refer to as being founded here by the Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox in the year 1450, relate to the Old Parish Church and steeple, &c. on the site of which the present new church and steeple were erected in the year 1811. With the authorities above referred to, and from the zealous labours of Columba and his followers to promulgate the pure gospel, and raise seminaries of religion and learning at an early period in Scotland, and from the apparent age of the "College Bow," we draw the unhesitating conclusion that it must have been reared in an early age by him or some of his monastic Christian brethren of Iona. It is likely that Saint Cairan, who was cotemporary with Columba, superintended the College of Alcluith, as we find the fountain of our public wells, at Levensgrove, called Saint Cheryes or Saint Cairan's Well. (See *Burgh Records*, 1709.) Saint Cairan was also, for a short time, coadjutor with Saint Constantine in presiding over the monastery at Govan.

Bede tells us expressly that Columba arrived at Iona when Brudius, a most powerful king, reigned over the Picts; and it was in the ninth year of his reign; and that he converted that nation and the Scots to the faith of Christ by his zealous preaching and example. The Ionian monastery and college was a very different society from the later Roman Catholic monkish institutions; for although the Ionian brethren had certain rules, and might deem certain religious regulations necessary, yet their grand and primary design was, by communicating instruction, to train up others for the sacred work of

the ministry. These societies, which sprung from them, became the foundation seminaries of the Church of Scotland. They lived, after the example of the venerable fathers and early Christian pastors, by the labour of their own hands.

Columba was originally a native of Ireland, descended from the royal family of that kingdom, and nearly allied to the kings of Scotland: he was born in the year 521: he laboured in the cause of the Saviour for many years in his native country, and was the means of diffusing the Gospel far and wide. Ireland had then, for a long time previously, enjoyed the light of the Gospel, while the Isles and northern parts of Scotland were still covered with heathen darkness, superstition, and idolatry. On these dismal regions Columba looked with a pitying eye, and resolved to become the apostle of the savage Western Isles. Accordingly, in the year 563, he set out from Ireland in a wicker boat covered with hides, accompanied by twelve of his followers and friends, and landed on the island of Iona. He was now in the forty-second year of his age, and required all the vigour of body and mind he possessed to encounter the very great difficulties which presented themselves. The barbarous state of the nation—the opposition of the priests and Druids—the situation of the country, wild, woody, mountainous, and infested with wild beasts—the austerity of his own manners, sometimes fasting for whole days, and even watching and praying for whole nights, were all against his philanthropic mission. He often denied himself the comforts and enjoyments of life. Even at his seventy-sixth year, in his various travellings, his bed was often the bare ground, and a stone his pillow. These were all circumstances very unfavourable in appearance to his making many proselytes. Columba was also primate, and superintended all the affairs of the Pictish, Scottish, and Irish churches, with all their dependencies, and was highly revered not only by the king of the Picts, but also by all the neighbouring princes, who courted his acquaintance, and liberally assisted him in all his expensive undertakings. Wherever he visited abroad he was received with the highest demonstration of respect and joy. Crowds attended him on the public highways, and to the places where he lodged at night the respective neighbourhoods sent stores of provisions of every kind to entertain him. When at home he was resorted to for aid and advice, as a physician of both

soul and body, by vast multitudes of every rank and denomination: even the little Ionian islet, the place of his more permanent residence, was considered as peculiarly sacred and holy; and to repose in the dust of it became for ages an object of ambition to kings, princes, and potentates. According to Buchanan the historian, forty-eight kings of Scotland, four of Ireland, and eight of Norway, were interred in Iona—in all sixty kings!! This monastery was perhaps the chief seminary of Christians at the time in Europe, and the famed nursery from which not only all the other monasteries, and above three hundred and eight churches which he himself had established, but also many of the neighbouring nations, were supplied with learned divines and able pastors. It must also be observed, that Columba had a very extraordinary share of address, of personal accomplishments, and colloquial talents, when he so effectually recommended himself wherever he went, and gained such ascendancy over so many princes, as to be revered and patronised by them all, even when they were in a state of barbarism, and were seldom at peace amongst themselves. To his many other talents, accompanied with the most engaging manners and a cheerful countenance, was joined another very essential property in a preacher, a most powerful and commanding voice, which Adomnan says he could raise on occasions so as to resemble peals of thunder, and make it to be heard distinctly a mile's distance when he chanted psalms.

His natural endowments were highly cultivated by the best education which the times could afford; and though we have no particular account transmitted to us of his studies, it would seem they were not entirely confined to the profession which he followed, but extended to the general circle of science. Such was his knowledge of physic that his cures were often considered as being partially miraculous.

But a still more striking part of Columba's character was his early, uniform, and strong spirit of deep piety. Devoted from his birth to the service of God, and evidently bent on the pursuit of holiness, he seems to have reached the goal before others think of starting in the race. Far from resting in any measure of sanctity acquired in early life, he laboured often to gain still higher and higher degrees of it even to his latest day.

Next to the salvation of souls, the object which most engaged the heart of Columba was charity. Saint Mobith, who had

just built a church, brought Saint Cairan, Saint Kenneth, and Saint Columba to see it, and desired each of them to say with what things he would have it filled, if he had the accomplishment of his wish. Cairan, who spoke first, said he would wish to have it filled with holy men ardently engaged in celebrating the praises of God. Kenneth said, his wish would be to have it filled with sacred books, which should be read by many teachers, who would instruct multitudes, and stir them up to the service of God. And I, said Columba, would wish to have it filled with silver and gold, as a fund for erecting monasteries, and churches, and colleges, and for relieving the necessities of the poor and needy.

It is a curious fact in ancient Scottish ecclesiastical history, though not so generally known as it deserves, that a large body of pastors and people from this island and other mountains of Scotland, like the ancient Waldenses among the Alps and valleys of Piedmont, maintained, at an early period, the true worship of God in its native simplicity, and preached the gospel in its purity for many generations, when it was greatly corrupted in other places. A change much to the worse began to take place amongst them about the beginning of the ninth century, when almost all the men of Iona were destroyed or dispersed by the Danish freebooters, and when those misfortunes commenced which afterwards endured for ages. Society was greatly unhinged by war, anarchy, and desolation, and a seminary in such a state could not be expected to stand the shock of such revolutions. Yet some of the good seed seems to have been still preserved and propagated in the country by the ancient Culdees, who sprung from the schools and seminaries of Columba. Let us now turn our attention for a little to the closing scene of Columba's long and useful life.

A few weeks previous to his death, he went out along with his faithful Christian servant Dermot, and entering the barn, where he saw two heaps of corn, he expressed great satisfaction, and thanked God, whose bounty had thus provided a sufficiency of bread for his dear monks in this year in which he was finally to leave them. "During this year," said Dermot, wiping his eyes, "you have made us all sad by the mention of your death." "Yes, Dermot," said the holy Saint, "but I will now be more explicit with you, on condition that you promise to keep what I tell you a secret till I die." Dermot promised to do so, and

the Saint went on. "This day, in the sacred volume, is called 'the Sabbath'—that is 'rest'—and it will be indeed a Sabbath of rest to me, for it is to me the last day of this toilsome life—the day on which I am to rest from all my labour and trouble; for on this sacred night of the Lord, at the midnight hour, I go the way of my fathers." Dermot then wept bitterly, and the Saint administered to him all the consolation in his power.

After a little time, Dermot being somewhat composed, they left the barn. Columba afterwards ascended a little eminence on the island, immediately above his monastery, where he stood, and lifting both his eyes and hands to heaven, prayed God to bless and prosper it. He then went to evening service in the church, and, after coming home, sat down on his bed, and gave it in charge to Dermot to deliver the following to his disciples as his last words:—"My dying charge to you, my dear children, is, that you all live in peace, and sincerely love one another; and if you do this, as becometh saints, the God who comforts and upholds the good will help you; and now that I am going to dwell with him, will request that you may both have a sufficient supply of the necessities of the present transitory life, and a share in that everlasting bliss which he has prepared for those who observe his laws."

After this he rested or remained quiet till the bell was rung for prayers, at the hour of midnight, which was the general practice of Christians in very early ages. Hastily rising and going to the church, he arrived there before any other, and kneeled down before the altar to pray. When Dermot, who did not walk or run so quick, approached the church, he perceived it—as did others—all illuminated, and as it were filled with a heavenly glory or angelic light, which, on his entering the door, immediately vanished; upon which Dermot cried with a mournful voice—O, my father, where art thou!! My father, where art thou!! and groping, without waiting for lamps, found the Saint lying before the altar in a praying posture. Dermot, attempting to raise him up a little, sat beside him, supporting the Saint's head upon his bosom, till lights came in. When the brethren saw their father dying, they raised all at once a very doleful cry. Upon this the Saint, whose soul had not yet departed, lifted up his eyes, and—as Adomnan, his biographer, relates—looked around him with inexpressible

cheerfulness and joy of countenance, seeing no doubt the holy angels come to meet his departing spirit. He then attempted, with Dermot's assistance, to raise his right hand to bless the monks, who were then all about him; but his voice having failed, he made with his hand alone the motion which he used in pronouncing his usual benediction: after which he immediately breathed out his spirit, still retaining some tranquil smiles. By the brightness and the fresh look of his countenance, he had not the least appearance of one who was dead, but only sleeping. After the spirit had departed, and when the morning hymns were ended, the sacred body was carried from the church to the house of the brethren, amidst the loud singing of psalms; and three days and three nights were spent in the sweet praises of God. "The venerable body of our holy and blessed patron," says Adomnan, "was wrapped in fair linen sheets, and put into a coffin prepared for it, and was buried with all due respect, to rise as a luminary in eternal glory on the day of the resurrection. Such was the close of our venerable patron's life, who is now, according to the Scriptures, associated with the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, and thousands of saints, who are clothed in white robes washed in the blood of the Lamb, and who follow him whithersoever he goeth. Such was the grace vouchsafed to his pure and spotless soul by Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be honour and power, praise and glory, and eternal dominion, for ever and ever."

Thus, on the 9th of June, 597, and in the seventy-seventh year of his age, died Columba, the Christian Apostle of Iona; a man whose extraordinary piety and usefulness,—accompanied with a perpetual serenity of mind, cheerfulness of countenance, simplicity of manners, benevolence of heart, and sweetness of disposition,—have deservedly raised him to the first rank of saints and holy men. His life, so zealously devoted to the cause and spread of early Christianity, was very singular; and the extent of his usefulness, and the happy results of his labours and exertions, will remain hid till the judgment of the great day unfold them.

Adomnan gives a beautiful and classical description of two era or dinary visions, which he says had been seen on the night on which Columba died. One of them by a holy man in Ireland, who told to his friends next morning that he had a vision

through the previous night, declaring that Columba was dead ; and the other by a number of fishermen, who had been that night fishing on a loch called Glenfende, from some of whom Adomnan had the relation when he was a boy. The purport of it was—"That on the night and hour on which Columba, the founder of so many churches, had departed, a pillar of fire, which illuminated all the sky with a light brighter than that of the mid-day sun, was seen to arise from Iona, while loud and sweet sounding anthems of innumerable choirs of angels ascending with his soul were distinctly heard, and that when this column reached the heavens the darkness again returned, as if the sun had suddenly set at noonday."

Such lively pictures of the religious opinions of former times will not displease the antiquary, nor appear insignificant to the good and the pious. The cold sceptic may perhaps smile at the credulity of former ages, but credulity is more favourable to the happiness of man and to the interests of society than scepticism. In the history of all ages and nations, we read of some such extraordinary appearances in certain stages of society ; shall we then refuse all credit to human testimony, or shall we allow that a kind Providence may have adapted itself to the dark state of society, and given such visible and striking proofs of the connection and communication between this world and a world of spirits, as may be properly withheld from more enlightened times, which may need them less, and perhaps less deserve them. Adomnan remarks, that even in his time a heavenly light and manifestation of angels was frequently seen on Iona at Columba's grave.

These latter remarks remind me much of a visit paid to the island of Icolumbkill, or Iona, in the year 1825, by the late Rev. Leigh Richmond, Rector of Turvey, in Bedfordshire, as recorded in his memoirs :—On that occasion he met with upwards of two hundred children, and addressed them and their parents, through the medium of a Gaelic interpreter, on their eternal interests. Before leaving the island, however, he ordered a kind of feast to be prepared for the children on the grassy banks of the sea-shore, for there was no house large enough to contain them on the island. The principal dish at this singular juvenile banquet was the fattest sheep that could be procured on the island, value 6s. and two lambs at 1s. each ; and, for lack of eating implements, the children selected

fine shells from the sea-shore to supply the deficiency of knives and forks. The following beautiful hymn was composed by the reverend gentleman, and sung on the occasion :—

“Thou God of all grace, omnipotent Lord,
Fill all our hearts with the power of thy word :
Have mercy, Jehovah, and be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

Thy Spirit came once on the wings of the dove,
And proved to our fathers how great was thy love :
Have mercy again, and be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

When idolatrous Druids polluted the land,
To banish them hence thou did'st put forth thy hand ;
Thou art still the same Lord, and oh, be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

On Thee all our hope in our poverty stays,
Reveal, Lord, thy work in the midst of the days ;
We will trust thee, O Lord, then be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

Though remote be our dwelling, and humble our lot,
Yet our God has a blessing for each little cot :
Have mercy, dear Saviour, and be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

May our hearts feel the power of the blood that was shed,
When Christ on the cross for our sins bowed his head :
May that blood be our trust, and, oh, be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

Bless our parents and teachers, and make it their joy
In seeking our welfare their time to employ ;
Oh, bless their instructions, and be it thy will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

Now hear our petitions, O Lord of the Isles,
That we all may partake of thy heavenly smiles ;
In life and in death be thou merciful still,
And save the poor children of Icolumbkill.

And at the Last Day, when our bodies shall rise,
And behold the great Saviour and Judge in the skies ;
Then let it be known that it was thy good will
To save the poor children of Icolumbkill."

The revolution of ages hurries on imperceptibly, with almost the rapidity of lightning. While our eyes scan over the pages of past history, we are apt to heave an involuntary sigh over the ruins of time, the ravages of death, and the desolations of empires. Where are now the Persian, the Assyrian, and the Roman empires? Where is Tyre, and Nineveh, and Babylon? Where are the ancient cities of Baalbeck, Tadmor in the Desert, and Palmyra?—supposed to be built by Solomon—the ruins of whose gorgeous buildings appear to have exceeded his famed Temple of Jerusalem. The answer is—they have all perished in the wreck of ages. The ploughshare of time has erased even their very foundations; and no trace of them is now to be found, but some huge pillars and broken columns and capitals strewn along the Palmyrian desert. Such is the history of the empires and cities of our globe. And in a few centuries hence where shall populous London, Empress of the Thames, be found?—or commercial Glasgow, Queen of the far-famed Clyde? Their names, indeed, may be inscribed on the page of history by the pen of the historian; but there will not be found, amongst their present stately buildings, "one stone left on another that shall not be thrown down." Not only empires and cities are doomed to decay and ruin, to destruction and oblivion, but the fair fabric of this vast universe itself is rapidly hastening to a final end. Yes,

"The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself;
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."

PART II.

Dunstaffnage Castle, the Ancient Residence of the Scottish Kings—The Royal Stone of Dunstaffnage was Jacob's Pillow on the Plains of Bethel—the Earls of Lennox—Tobias Smollett—Beautiful Ode on the River Leven—His Letter as to the Ancient Site of Aiclnith—His Monument at Renton—Tradition as to the Name of the River Leven—Ancient Seat of Lennox—Their Illustrious Family Descent—Ancient Port of Murroch—Dumbarton erected into a Royal Burgh—Hatred of Edward the First against Scotland—His Death—Hardinge, a Scottish Chronicler—His Lines on the Castle—Blind Harry, the Scottish Minstrel—His Tale of the Celebrated Warrior Wallace—Singular Exploit of the Patriot Wallace within the Burgh—Brief Notice of his Life and Noble Deeds—Edward of England offers a Reward of Three Hundred Merks for his Head—Betrayed by Sir John Monteith—Seized, Carried to London, and Beheaded in Westminster Hall—The Noble Patriot Bruce, the Deliverer of his Country—Brief Notice of his Illustrious Life and Career—Capture of his Wife and Daughter in a Scottish Monastery, by a Party of English Soldiers—His Last Illness and Death, which took place at Castle Hill, in the Parish of Cardross, and Vicinity of this Burgh—A great Plague broke out in Scotland in the year 1361—Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, died of the Plague in the Prison of Dumbarton Castle—A great Famine in Scotland in the year 1339—Curious Extract of an Act of the Scottish Parliament, in 1288, on Marriage—Robert the Third Coins Money in Dumbarton—George Buchanan, the Classical Historian, sent to the Burgh School of Dumbarton—Brief Description of Loch and Benlomond—with the battle of Glenfruin, betwixt the Colquhouns and Macgregors, and supposed slaughter of 150 Dumbarton young Students.

CASTLE OF DUNSTAFFNAGE.—The castle of Dunstaffnage, which was the royal residence of the ancient Scottish kings and princes, is beautifully situated near the entrance of Loch Etive, in Lorn, Argyllshire; it now consists of a ruined octagonal structure of about four hundred and fifty feet in circumference, and from thirty to forty in height. The Western Isles were, at an early period, and for a considerable time, subjected to Norwegian influence. The island of Kerrara, in front of Oban, is very memorable, as being the sacred spot on which, in the year 1249, Alexander the Second drew his latest breath. He was killed in an expedition, which sailed from Dumbarton, undertaken by his Majesty for the purpose of subduing the Western

Isles. The sanguinary locality is still known by the appellation of "the King's Field." An indubitable evidence of Dunstaffnage having been amongst the earliest palaces of the Scottish kings, is obtained in the famed traditionary history of the "Royal Stone of Dunstaffnage," and sometimes called the "Stone of Scone," on which, by ancient usage, it was customary for the kings and queens of Scotland to be crowned. The history of this famed palladium of the Scottish monarchy, whether true or fabulous, is by no means destitute of interest and singularity, the more especially as the famed stone is said to exist in the present day, and must therefore have been used as a coronation seat for at least more than thirteen centuries. It is, indeed, related in the ancient chronicles, that the "Stone of Dunstaffnage" was originally brought from the East, having formed the pillow of the ancient patriarch Jacob, when he lay down to sleep on the sacred plains of Luz or Bethel, an event recorded by King Edward on a tablet which accompanied this trophy, when he carried it away from Scotland. It is a historical fact, that our youthful Queen Victoria, after being splendidly and gorgeously attired, was seated on this sacred stone at the period of her eventful coronation, on the 28th of June, 1838.

EARLS OF LENNOX.—Alewin, the first Earl of Lennox, died early in the reign of William the Lion; Donald, the second Earl, died in the same reign; Baldwin, the fourth Earl, died in the thirteenth century; Malcolm, the fifth Earl of Lennox, was one of Bruce's noble associates in assisting to restore the liberties of Scotland—he was killed at the battle of Halidon, in the year 1333; Duncan was sixth Earl of Lennox; Matthew, seventh Earl of Lennox, died in the commencement of the sixteenth century; Ludovick, the eighth Earl, died in the year 1596. Maldowen, the third Earl of Lennox, in 1225, granted to the monastery of Paisley the right of fishing in the river Leven, with liberty to dry their nets on the grassy banks of the stream. (See Chartulary of Paisley.) He also granted to the same monastery the right of having a yare for catching fish in the river Leven; and that no other yare should be established in the river between that of the monk's and Loch Leven or Lochlomond; but he and his heirs, in all time coming, claimed a title and right to the one-half of the fish caught in his yare. Lochlomond was, at a very remote period, called

Loch Leven, which may be learned from the Chartularies of Lennox and Paisley. The lake or loch and the river derived their names from the Welsh appellation "Lleven," signifying smooth, a quality for which they are very much distinguished. Tradition, however, says that the name of the Leven is derived from a very remote and melancholy circumstance, which occurred at an early period, and related as follows:—A wealthy nobleman, who resided on its banks, had a family of eleven beautiful daughters; eight of the younger ones were enjoying themselves in taking relaxation and pastime on one of the fine green fields which skirt its rapid current. By accident one of the beautiful group slid from the bank into the passing stream; the unwary maidens, one by one, flew to their sister's rescue, and they shared the same fate. The painful tidings flew like lightning to the paternal mansion: the remaining three eldest daughters, hastening down, beheld the last of their dear sisters still struggling with the rapid current: they also were intent on rendering aid to their perishing sister, but alas! one after another, they all shared the same melancholy doom! Thus were eleven lovely members of a beloved family snatched suddenly away from the embrace of fond parents, finding a premature and watery grave, while the paternal roof was left almost desolate, except the baby heir, who hung on the maternal bosom. Hence the name—the River of the Eleven, or the River Leven. The Leven, issuing from such an immense reservoir as Lochlomond, is very smooth and equable in its flow down its delightful channel: it is very seldom subject to those sudden swells which often convert other streams into rapid torrents. Tobias Smollett, whose birth-place stood among the green fields of Leven—and whose chaste monument, a Tuscan or Doric pillar, about sixty feet high, adorns its banks at the village of Renton—with classic pen, extols, in delightful poetic strains, this his native stream for its charming links, unruffled by mountain torrents, and uninterrupted by rocks, in a beautiful descriptive ode, found in another part of this volume. The meandering and fertilising stream of the Leven, from its parent lake, rolls silently and majestically down the enchanting vale, driving machinery to industrious thousands, passing our ancient Burgh on the south, and commingling its limpid waters with the Clyde at the castle, being a distance of about six miles.

Dalquhurn, on the banks of the transparent Leven, two miles

above the Burgh, was the birth-place of the celebrated Dr. Tobias Smollett, near which he penned the classical lines to that lovely river above alluded to. The learned and erudite author and historian, having received the first rudiments of his youthful education and training in the Dumbarton seminary, under "the auld kirk steeple," ever afterwards entertained a lively and warm interest in the antiquities and other important matters connected with our ancient burgh. He wrote a letter from Chelsea to a friend, above ninety years ago, as to the site of ancient Alcluith and its surrounding antiquities, of which the following is a copy :—

CHELSEA, 9th March, 1756.

DEAR SIR,—Your very kind letter afforded me real pleasure, because it breathes genuine friendship and sincerity. Such language of the heart I prefer to all frippery of elocution—to all the bribes of ostentation. * * * * * By the bye, I find Dumbarton was once the capital of the kingdom of Arecluyd, inhabited by Britons or Cumbrians, whence its name of Dunbritton; that this kingdom extended westerly to the extremity of Cunningham, or to the Cumbrae islands in the mouth of the Clyde; that it was bounded by the Forth on one side, and the Irish Channel on the other. The greatest part of Dumbarton has been destroyed by an inundation. I myself, when a boy, have felt the stones of the pavement under water, between what is called the "College" and the "Town's End." I think I remember to have seen the ruins of old stone houses on the other side of the "Sands;" and on your ground, at the "Stony Flatt," there are many remains of Druidical worshipping places. I am persuaded that an antiquarian would find much entertainment about Dumbarton, and even some noble monuments of Roman antiquity, for there was a stationary camp within three miles of the place, at Kilpatrick, for the guard of the wall built by Lollius Urbicus, in the reign of Antoninus, commonly called Graeme's Dyke, which Buchanan ignorantly confounds with the wall built by Severus, from the Esk to the Tyne in the north of England; and, as the Britons of Arecluyd were under the Roman protection, they must entertained an intimate intercourse; and, without doubt, the Roman generals and officers of rank lived at Dunbritton.

You will think this is a strange rhapsody, but to me the subject is interesting. I have had occasion to inquire into the antiquities of our country. I find the Scots came from Ireland but yesterday, in comparison with the antiquity of the Caledonians and Britons of Arecluyd. I would derive myself from the last. But whether ancient Scot, Briton, or Norman, I certainly am, with great affection and esteem, dear Sir, your very humble servant,

T. SMOLLETT.

The Earls of Lennox had their family seat on the right hand entering to Lochlomond, now called Balloch, or Butturich Castle ; some remains of the old edifice and moat are still perceptible, and can be traced. A beautiful modern castle has been recently erected, contiguous to the place where the ancient building is supposed to have stood. The estate is now in the possession of Gibson Stott, Esq.

From this very ancient family of Lennox, by a female, descended many of the nobility and rank of Scotland—the Dukes of Richmond and Grafton, the Dukes of Berwick, Fitz-James, and Brunswick, on the Continent, and all the royal families both of Great Britain and Sardinia. Such then is the high derivation and dignified lineage of this illustrious house. The ancient name of “Levenachs” signified the beautiful fields of Leven, and included the whole of the extensive territory which belonged in property or superiority to the ancient Earls of Lennox, forming the earldom of Lennox, with which the sheriffdom of Dumbartonshire appears to have been co-extensive in the thirteenth century. (See the Chartulary of Lennox.)

Alexander the Second granted to the monks of Newbattle a toft within this burgh, and a net’s fishing in the river Leven, 1220. In the year 1222, Dunbretton was erected into a royal burgh, with very special privileges, by Alexander the Second. This original charter has been lost, with other valuable records, during the early periods of civil and religious commotions in the west. The charter of confirmation, granted by King James the Sixth in the year 1609 to the burgh, confirming what was formerly held, and giving new immunities to the burgesses and inhabitants, is printed, and may be seen.

In 1238, Maldowin, third Earl of Lennox, obtained from Alexander the Second a royal charter, confirming to him the earldom of Lennox, which his grandfather Earl Alevin held, excepting the castle of Dumbarton, with the adjoining lands, and the Port of Murroch, with the fishings on both sides of the river Leven, as far as the lands of Murroch extended. (See Chartulary of Lennox.) “Murrach,” says Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, vol. I. page 864, “was the name of a place in the vicinity of the castle.” With all due deference to this generally correct antiquarian, it does not appear evident to the author that the Port of Murroch stood in the vicinity of the castle. This statement is calculated to mislead a modern

d inhabitant as to the exact position in which the Port of Mur-
h roch then stood. No such port or harbour of the above name
is now in existence. The true manner, however, of ascertain-
ing the exact site where this ancient Port of Murroch then
stood, is as follows:—A farm to the north of this town, be-
longing to the beautiful estate of James Ewing, Esq. Strath-
leven, is still called Murroch. Through the upper parts of
these lands runs a pretty large mountain stream, called “Mur-
roch Burn,” which receives its waters from the neighbouring
highlands, and thence, flowing down gently, empties itself into
the river Leven at Kilmalid. From this point southward is
the site where the ancient city of Alcluith stood, stretching
along the marshy lands, now called the “Broadmeadow,” be-
longing to the burgesses of Dumbarton, and bounded on the
west by the River Leven. This place appears, from ancient
records, to have been the original area on which the ancient
town stood, as appears from the historical circumstances of the
inhabitants frequently applying, so early as the thirteenth and
fourteenth centuries, to the Scottish Parliament, and to the
Convention of Royal Burghs, for grants of money to uphold their
bulwarks raised to protect them from the fearful inundations
of Lochlomond, and the rivers Leven and Clyde. King James
the Sixth, in 1603, laid a tax on all the kingdom of Scotland,
to repair and renew the bulwarks and embankments which
surrounded the town from these annoying and watery eruptions
which often threatened the taking it away. Murroch Burn
was the furthest point in the river Leven which could be navi-
gated to the north, in these early days, with shallops, currachs,
and crearies; and it was also the nearest convenient landing-
place to the princely seats and castles of the noble Earls of
Lennox. Here, then, at the north end of the ancient town of
Dunbretton or Alcluith, stood the Port of Murroch, the only
harbour or port known on the river Leven in these days; to
and from which were conveyed all the produce and ancient
warlike stores of the kingly Earls of Lennox, together with the
commerce and rude traffic of the adjoining town and surrounding
country. It is quite evident, therefore, that the town would be
adjoining the port or harbour, as the small shipping on the
river Leven would form the chief traffic of those early days.

Dumbarton Castle has been the general object of attrac-
tion, and has been occupied as a fortress of much strength,

during the ages both of savage rudeness and civilised refinement. Hardyng, a Scottish chronicler and poet, who flourished in the fourteenth century, thus describes the castle in his broad Scotch rhyming manner :—

“ And pass on furtherwarde to Dunbartayne,
A castle strong and harde for to obtaine ;
In whiche castle Saint Patricke was borne,
That afterwards in Irelande did winne ;
About the whiche (Castle Dunbartayne) floweth, even and morne,
The western seas, without noise or dinne ;
When furthe of the same the streams do rinne
Twise in xxiv hours, without any faile,
That no manne maye that strong castle assaile.”

This singular rock, Bede informs us, was reckoned the strongest fortress of Scotland in his days (in the year 730). In Lord Berner's translation of Froissart, a French writer, it is said that in the year 1333, “Dunbretton is a strong castel standing on the marches against the wylde Scottes.”

Edward the First, of England, in the year 1305, put Dumbarton Castle under the authority of Sir John Monteith, who held it till 1309, when it was gallantly taken by the celebrated Robert Bruce.

Edward died on the 6th of July, 1307, at a place called Burg, on the borders of Scotland, and in the sight of that country which he had in his heart devoted to destruction. By his will he appointed his heart to be conveyed to the Holy Land. With his dying breath he gave orders that his corps should accompany his army into Scotland, and remain without interment until that country was totally subdued. The dying injunctions however of kings, as well as others, are seldom regarded. His remains were deposited in the royal sepulchre of Westminster, by his son Edward the Second. (See Dalrymple's *Annals of Scotland*, Vol. II. p. 25.)

During the war of Edward the Fourth against Scotland, an English fleet came boldly up the Clyde and besieged Dumbarton Castle, when it was bravely defended by Sir Andrew Wood, of Leith, whose valuable services on that occasion were meritoriously rewarded for his gallant conduct. (Ib. 1306.) A Scottish Parliament was held at Edinburgh in the year

1357, at which Donald, Earl of Lennox, was present; and also a delegate from the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton, but the name of the delegate does not appear. (See Annals, 1306.)

Blind Harry, or, as he was often called, "The Scottish Minstrel," wrote a chivalric and very faithful tale of the celebrated warrior Wallace, about the year 1480. This old poetic author refers also, in one of his poems, to the "Marches on the Moor," belonging to the town of Dumbarton. (See Lord Erskine's speech in the House of Lords, 1809, in the case "The Town of Dumbarton against the neighbouring Proprietors.")

If by historical association we are allied to the devoted Columba, who not only in former ages trode our ancient streets and soil, but is supposed to have built our rude forefathers a Church and College in the days of yore, how ought we then to cherish his sacred memory as one of the most noble, and venerable, and early leaders in the armies of the Cross. Closely attached to us, also, are the illustrious Scottish patriots, Bruce and Wallace, who courageously fought and bled for our civil freedom. If the pious Columba broke the degrading yoke of superstition in our land, and gave our ancestors religious freedom from the galling and cruel chains of superstition and idolatry, shall we not also cherish the memories of those noble patriots, Bruce and Wallace, who we may suppose were both denizens of our Burgh—the former of whom broke the chains of English tyranny, and set our Nation free, and the latter lost his patriot head in the glorious struggle.

WILLIAM WALLACE.—This noble champion of his country was born in Renfrewshire, a district of the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde. His early nurse is said to have soothed his childish ears with tales and songs of Welsh, Scottish, and Celtic bards; as there is room to suppose that the former language still lingered in some remote corners of the country, where it had once prevailed. At any rate, Wallace was brought up entirely free from that egotism and selfishness which are so common and natural to the sphere of a Regal Court; and which is generally believed to be peculiarly unfavourable to the heroism of a true patriot. Popular Scottish tradition, which delights to dwell upon the beloved champion of the people, describes Wallace as of dignified stature, unequalled in strength and dexterity, and so brave, that only on

one occasion (and then he was under the imaginary influence of a supernatural power) is he allowed to have experienced the sensation of fear. Wallace, when only a youth, was believed at first to have been proclaimed an outlaw for the slaughter of an Englishman in a casual affray, who had proudly domineered over him. He retreated to the woods of his native place, Elderslea, speedily collected a band of men around him, as brave as himself, and obtained success in several skirmishes with detachments of the English army. Sir William Douglas, who had been taken by the English at the siege of Berwick, but who had been discharged upon ransom, with several others of the Nobility, hastened to join Wallace's standard against Edward, in the year 1297. Edward often tried, and even employed every base means, to persuade Wallace to join the English, but it was in vain: his constant answer was, "That he had devoted his life to the service of his country, to which it was due; and if he could do it no other service, he would die in its defence." At this period Wallace was about the vicinity of Dumbarton; and, being much wearied and fatigued, he entered the principal inn of the Burgh, which was then in College Street. The Castle being then in the possession of the English, and they having got notice of his private retreat, sent a party of soldiers with an officer to take him captive. The Scottish hero, sitting down quietly to a hasty refreshment in the inn, was suddenly surrounded by the party, consisting of twenty soldiers and an officer. Wallace always carried his large two-handed sword with him over his left shoulder—the trusty weapon of his defence—and with it he was resolved at all hazards to cut his way out. He therefore leaped a back window (which may be seen to this day, for the old house is still standing), and valiantly engaged his foes; cutting down ten or twelve of the soldiers, together with their officer, the remainder fled in terror and trepidation to the garrison for safety.

In the year 1298, all the Scottish fortresses and castles fell before the conquering arms of Edward; Dumbarton Castle being the last to submit to the thralldom of the English monarch. Several of the Scottish Nobles, at this time, were fined and imprisoned, and others yielded ignominiously to the sway of the haughty Prince; Wallace, remaining almost alone, magnanimously refused to acknowledge the superiority of the

English arms. The consequence was, that on the head of the Scottish patriot the English King put the price of 300 merks. What Edward prized more than the surrender of the last fortress which resisted his arms in Scotland, was the captivity of her last patriot, Wallace. Edward had found in a Scottish Nobleman, Sir John Monteith, a person willing to become his agent in searching for the hero amongst the woods and fastnesses where he was driven to find refuge. The noble Wallace was finally betrayed by this, his unworthy and apostate countryman, who found an opportunity of seizing him at Robroyston, a village in the vicinity of Glasgow, by the treachery of a servant. Sir William Wallace was instantly carried in chains to London, where he was brought to trial in Westminster Hall, with as much apparatus of infamy as the ingenuity of his enemies could devise. He was crowned with a garland of oak, to intimate that he had been the King of Outlaws. The arraignment charged him with "high treason," inasmuch as he had stormed and taken towns and castles, and shed much blood. "*Traitor*," said Wallace, "*was I never!*" The other charges he confessed, and proceeded to justify them in a short pathetic speech before his enemies, and in the very sight of the axe and the block. He was finally condemned, and executed by decapitation. His patriot head was then placed on a pinnacle of London bridge, and the four quarters of his body were distributed to various parts of the Kingdom.

Thus died this courageous Hero, leaving a remembrance behind him which will be immortal in the hearts of his countrymen. This steady champion of the independence of Scotland having been thus removed, was held out as a bloody example to all who should venture to tread in his footsteps. Edward now proceeded to form a species of Constitution for Scotland, which, at the cost of so much labour, policy, and bloodshed, he had at length, as he conceived, united for ever to the English Crown. But in this he was grievously mistaken; for there was a Bruce of Bannockburn who laid the proud usurper low.

ROBERT BRUCE was one of the most intrepid warriors and champions who ever appeared in any age. After the betrayal of Wallace he undauntedly and courageously led on the Scottish armies to battle and to victory. He proved to be the valiant defender and deliverer of his country. The crafty

Edward once and again attempted to bribe the gallant patriot : he dared not to write on the subject, but he sent Bruce at one time, privately, a pair of gold spurs and a purse of gold : they were, however, scornfully returned to the unprincipled monarch. The personal prowess of Bruce was very great and daring. At the battle of Bannockburn, and consequent defeat of the English army, Henry de Bohun, a general of Edward's army, having singled out the Scottish King, fiercely rushed on him with his spear ; but Bruce nimbly avoided his aim, and, at one stroke, cleft his head down to the chin with his battle-axe, in sight of the two armies. Well might the Ayrshire Bard sing

“ Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots wham Bruce has often led,
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to glorious victory.

“ Now's the day and now's the hour,
See the front o' battle lour ;
See approach proud Edward's power,
Edward ! chains, and slavery.”

Bruce was engaged at this period in besieging Dumbarton Castle, which was then in possession of the English, and commanded by Monteith, the base betrayer of Wallace, who had obtained this reward from Edward as part payment of his treachery. The price now demanded by Monteith for the surrender of the fortress was, the whole County, with the Earldom of Lennox, which Bruce agreed to, having previously obtained the Earl's consent to conclude the bargain. The perfidious Monteith, however, had basely concealed a number of the English soldiers in a deep vault of the fortress, who, on a signal to be given, were to rush out and seize Bruce : but the loyalty of a carpenter, named Rolland, discovered the plot to him before he entered the precincts of the Castle. Bruce, nevertheless, at this critical juncture, generously pardoned Monteith, on condition that he would lead a detachment of the Scottish army to the field of Bannockburn ; and the consequence was, that he fought with such bravery as induced Bruce to bestow even new honours on him.

In the year 1328, a treaty of peace was concluded betwixt

the two Kingdoms, the terms of which were, that England should renounce all claim to the Crown of Scotland; that Cumberland and Northumberland should be the future boundary; and that David, son of King Robert Bruce, should marry Johannah, the sister of Edward. But the former part of this treaty was ignominiously broken by the perfidiousness of the English monarch. Bruce, after the marriage of his son David, retired to his castle in the parish of Cardross and vicinity of Dumbarton, after having reigned twenty-four years. There he spent his last days, in the midst of his royal domestics and servants, and was surrounded with the delightful scenery of the Firth of Clyde and the River Leven, on both of which he frequently took aquatic excursions. Bruce seemed only to wait for the final deliverance of his country to close his heroic career. He had probably retired from the turmoils of war, for the purpose of enjoying a milder and more genial and salubrious climate in his declining years. Here he lived in princely retirement, and entertained his Nobles with sumptuous hospitality: he also relieved, by liberal doles of food and raiment, the craving distresses of the poor and needy in the adjoining Town and neighbourhood. Nautical affairs seemed, however, to have engaged his attention very much; and he built vessels and barges, with which he and a portion of his Court often went pleasuring on the adjoining Firth of Clyde and River Leven. He practised falconry, being unable to sustain the fatigue of hunting. We may also add—for everything is interesting when Bruce is the subject—that he kept a lion, and a fool named Patrick, as regular parts of his domestic establishment. Meantime, his disease—a species of leprosy which had its origin in the hardships and privations which he sustained for so many years—gained ground upon his remaining strength.

When he found his end drawing near, that great King summoned his Barons and Peers around him, and affectionately recommended his son to their care; then singling out the good Lord James of Douglas, fondly entreated of him, as his old friend and companion in arms, to cause his heart to be taken from his body after death—conjuring him to take the charge of transporting it to the Holy Land, in redemption of a vow which he had made to go there in person when he was disentangled from the cares and toils brought on him by the English

war. "Now the hour is come," said he; "I cannot now avail myself of the opportunity, but must send my heart thither instead of my body; and a better knight than you, my dear and tried friend and comrade, to execute such a commission, the world does not possess." All who were present wept bitterly around his bed, while the king, with almost his dying words, bequeathed this melancholy task to his best beloved friend and companion. King Robert Bruce expired in our immediate neighbourhood, on the seventh day of June, 1329, at the almost premature age of 55. He was greatly lamented, not only by his weeping household and friends, but by the whole nation at large. He was buried at Dunfermline, where his tomb was opened in our own day, and his reliques again reinterred, amid all the feelings of awe and admiration which such a sight tended naturally to inspire.

Bruce's personal accomplishments in war stood so high that he was universally esteemed one of the three best knights in Europe during that martial age, and he gave many daring proofs of his personal prowess. His numerous heroic achievements seem amply to vindicate this high estimate of his military character. He was a wise and valiant Prince—just and temperate amidst the storms and tempests of war—one whose great qualities shone forth with peculiar lustre, and whose equal is scarcely to be found in any country.

When Elizabeth, the wife of Bruce, and Marjory, his daughter by a former marriage, were taken captives by the English, in a Monastery at Tain, in Ross-shire, whither they had fled for refuge, they were afterwards conveyed to the manor of Brustewick. The directions given by the English for the entertainment of Elizabeth in her captivity were—"She was to have a waiting woman and a maid servant, advanced in life, sedate, and of good conversation. A butler, two men servants, and a foot-boy for her chamber, sober and not riotous, to make her bed. Three greyhounds when she inclines to hunt. Venison, fish, and the fairest house in all the manor." In 1312 she was removed to Windsor Castle, twenty shillings weekly being allowed for her maintenance: she was set at liberty towards the close of 1314; Marjory, the daughter of Bruce, was given in charge to Henry, Earl of Percy. (*Annals of Scotland*, vol. ii. pp. 10, 11, note.)

In 1818, on laying the foundation of a new Parish Church

at Dunfermline, the ancient tomb of the celebrated King Robert Bruce was discovered and laid open. The body of the hero was found reduced to a skeleton, while the lead in which it had been inclosed was still entire; and even some of the fragments of a fine linen cloth, embroidered with gold, which had formed the shroud of the Scottish conqueror. He was reinterred with much state and solemn ceremony by the Barons of Exchequer, his bones having been in the first place deposited in a new coffin, which was filled up with bituminous matter calculated to preserve them. Many of the most distinguished Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Dunfermline were assistants at the solemnities. His tomb is now underneath the pulpit of the new Parish Church, and his honoured name is untastefully cut in the stones which now adorn the summit of the spire. A farm in the parish of Cardross, called *Castlehill*, belonging to Robert Cunningham Bontine, Esq. is the place where King Robert Bruce died. It lies to the west of this Town, and almost on the very verge of the boundary of the Parliamentary Burgh. The site of the ancient Castle is supposed to have been on the top of a beautiful green rising eminence immediately to the north of the farm-house. The sacred spot is now nearly imperceptible to the passing traveller. Some not very distinct traces of the ancient foundation stones may yet be discovered by the antiquarian, although upwards of 500 years have elapsed since the valiant Hero breathed his last amidst his sorrowing courtiers and weeping friends, within its hallowed walls. Were a small chaste monumental pillar erected by the spirited and patriotic gentlemen of the County and inhabitants of Dumbarton, on this hallowed spot, to perpetuate Bruce's noble valour and life, and his lamented and peaceful death in our immediate vicinity, the praiseworthy deed would tend greatly to elevate them high in the estimation of their countrymen, and their names would thereby deserve to be enrolled in the annals of fame. The heroic conqueror who declared in life that he would not rest till his beloved country was entirely free from English thralldom, saw this partly accomplished ere he fell before the stroke of the last enemy. He is now sleeping in the narrow house with "Kings and Councillors of the earth" who flourished in former ages, and who, when alive, made the world tremble by their deeds of renown. We see that the silent grave is the

crowded goal of the human family—the general rendezvous of all men. But

“A well spent life, not the victorious sword,
Awards the crown, and styles the greater lord.”

During the reign of Bruce a very interesting and singular letter was sent from the nobility and community of Scotland to his holiness Pope John, regarding the conduct of Edward king of England towards Scotland. Among the names of the nobility will be found Malcom fifth Earl of Lennox. The following is a copy:—“Letter from the nobility and community of Scotland to the Pope. To the most holy Father in Christ, and Lord John, by the providence of God chief Bishop of the sacred Roman Catholic Church; his humble and devout sons, Malcom Earl of Lennox, Duncan Earl of Fife, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, &c. &c. (here follow about twenty Earls, Lords, Bishops, and Barons,) and whole community of the kingdom of Scotland—sendeth all dutiful reverence, devoutly kissing his holiness’ blessed feet. Most holy Father and Lord, We know and have gathered from the acts and books of the ancients, that among all other great nations, our nation of Scots was recorded with many praises, which, from the greater Scythia, passing the Tyrenian Sea, and the pillars of Hercules, and for a long time residing in Spain amongst a very fierce people, they could nowhere be subdued by any nation, however barbarous. And coming thence about 1200 years after the outgoing of the people of Israel, they purchased, by many victories and much toil, those territories in the west which they now possess, having expelled the Britons and destroyed the Picts, albeit they were frequently attacked by the Norwegians, Danes, and English; but have always maintained their possessions free of all servitude, as the histories of old times testify. In their kingdom one hundred and thirteen kings of the Royal progeny reigned, without the intervention of an alien, whose illustrious descendants, by their exploits, though they were not otherwise apparent, yet are abundantly conspicuous from this—that the King of Kings, and Lord Jesus Christ, after his passion and resurrection, called them, who were living in the uttermost parts of the earth, first to his most holy faith. Nor would he have them confirmed by any in this

faith but by his first Apostle, although second or third in order—to wit, the most meek Andrew, the brother of Saint Peter, whom our Saviour would have to be always their patron.

“The most holy Fathers, your predecessors, being with great concern persuaded of these things, did bestow upon this kingdom and people, as the flock of the brother of Saint Peter, many favours and privileges. Thus our nation has hitherto, under their protection, continued free and undisturbed, until the great King of England, Edward, the father of the present King, did, under the pretence of a friend and ally, invade our kingdom in a hostile manner when it wanted a head, and the people were conscious to themselves of having no guilt or guile, and they were not then accustomed to quarrels and insults.

“From innumerable evils, and by the assistance of Him who binds up the wounded, we are delivered, by our very valiant Prince, King, and Lord Robert, who, in delivering his people and inheritance out of the hands of their enemies, as another Macabee or Joshua, he cheerfully underwent troubles, toils, hardships, and dangers; whom also, by Divine providence and the right of succession, according to our laws and customs, which we will maintain to the utmost, and with the due assent and consent of all of us, have we made him our Prince and King. To him, as the deliverer of our people, by preserving our liberties, we are bound to adhere, as well upon the account of his right to the throne, as by reason of his own personal merits. But if he desist from what he has begun, and show any inclination to subject us or our kingdom to the kingdom of England, or to the English, we will use our utmost endeavour to expel him immediately as our enemy, and the subverter of his own and our rights; and we will make another our king, who is able to defend us. For so long as an hundred Scotsmen remain alive, we will never be subjected in any manner of way to the dominion of England.

“It is not for glory, honour, and riches, that we fight, but only for liberty; which no good man will lose but with his life. If your holiness, giving too much faith to the tales of the English, shall not sincerely believe these things, and shall not forbear to favour them in destroying of us, we are persuaded that the Almighty will impute to you the destruction of the souls and bodies, and the other hostilities which the English

shall commit upon us, and we upon them: since that we are and shall be, as in duty bound, obedient sons in all things to you, as God's vicegerent. And to him, as the great King and Judge, we commit the defence of our cause, placing our confidence in him alone, and firmly hoping that he will perfect strength in us and confound our enemies. May the Almighty long preserve your Holiness in health, for the good of his holy Church. Given at the Monastery of Aberbrothwick, in Scotland, the sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord 1320, and of the reign of our said King Robert the fifteenth year." (See Anderson's History of Scotland.)

Malcom Fleming, a brave man, having escaped from the battle of Halidon, in the year 1333, secured Dumbarton Castle against the English under Edward the First. To this fortress David the Second, with his young consort Johannah, the English Princess, fled for refuge from the English army, who had at this time already taken possession of the chief places of strength in Scotland. The loyal governor, Fleming, found secret means afterwards of conveying them from thence into France, where they were honourably and sumptuously entertained for nine years. They arrived from thence at Inverberie, in Kincardineshire, in the year 1341. (See An. of Scotland, vol. II. p. 185, 186.)

In the year 1360, Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, a turbulent and profligate person, was implicated with the murder of one Catharine Mortimer, a native of Wales, who was supposed to have been a private concubine of David the Second, during his eleven years of captivity in England. She became obnoxious to many of the nobility: they in consequence conspired against her life. Two wretches, named Hulle and Dewar, went to her residence, plausibly pretending that they had orders to convey her to the king. She therefore committed herself to their guidance. As they conducted her on the way they privately murdered her. Great suspicions arose that Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, had instigated the murderers to perpetrate the bloody deed. The king therefore ordered him to be immured in the dungeon of Dumbarton Castle, and he honourably interred the body of Catharine Mortimer in the Chapel of the Abbey of Newbattle. (Ib. 273.)

The following is an extract from an act of the Scottish Parliament on Marriage, passed in the reign of Queen Margaret,

(commonly called the Maid of Norway,) in the year 1288. It is in the Scotch language. "It is statute and ordainit, that during the reine of her maist blesset Majestie, ilk maiden ladye, of baith highe and low estaite, sall hae libertye to bespeacke ye man she lykes best; albeit gif he refaises to tak her till be his wife, he sall be mulcht in ye sume of ane hundredth pundis, or less, as his estaite maie be; except and always, gif he can mak it appeire that he is betrothet to ane other woman, that then he sall be free."

In the year 1314, five shillings was supposed to be the value of a cow, and six shillings and eightpence the value of an ox. In 1297 fire-arms were first used by the English in their wars with Scotland; John Barber, an ancient historian, calls them "crakys of war." At the siege of Stirling, in 1338, the Scots first employed cannon.

From the national accounts kept by the Chamberlain of Scotland, the originals of which are in exchequer, in 1329, it appears that this Burgh paid, as its proportion of cess, thirty-nine shillings and five pence sterling.

In the year 1339 a great famine was experienced in Scotland. The poorer people fed on grass, and many were found dead in the open fields.

A great plague broke out in Scotland in 1361, and continued its ravages through the whole of that year. It was computed that one-third of the whole population perished during this great calamity; amongst the sufferers were many persons of influence and distinction. Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, died in the prison of Dumbarton Castle of this plague.

Robert Third, who chiefly resided at his castle in Rothsay, about the year 1410, coined some money in Dumbarton, but whether in the castle or in the town does not appear; nor does it appear from history whether the coin was of gold, silver, or copper, or comprehended them all.

About the year 1455, one Patrick Thornton, a follower of the court of James the Third, barbarously murdered, at Dumbarton, John Sandilands of Calder, a young man of about twenty years of age, and Allan Stewart, both of noble families, and eminent for their loyalty to the king. Thornton was afterwards apprehended and executed.

During the reign of King James the Fourth, in the year 1495, James, a young unprincipled roving son of the Duke of

Albany, who had been left at liberty because he had been guilty of nothing that could make him an object of public justice, being under the direction of one Finlay, Bishop of Argyle, formerly his father's secretary; he, by his unprincipled conduct, speedily raised a large force in the Highlands of fierce and hardy mountaineers, very rudely accoutered, and apparently half savages. On the 3d of May, of the above year, this rude host of natives of the mountains and the woods appeared in the vicinity of Dumbarton, besetting the town, burning the greater part of it, and putting to the sword thirty-two of its peaceable inhabitants, amongst whom was Sir John Stewart of Dundonald, surnamed the Red, and natural son of Robert the Second. King James, on hearing this, immediately proclaimed young Stewart a rebel and a traitor; and the latter, being hard pursued by the King's forces, was compelled, with Bishop Finlay of Argyle, his governor and chief adviser, to fly to Ireland. This formidable insurrection affords a very strong proof of the necessity James was under of humbling the lawless leaders of the Highlanders during the previous regency, since a roving stripling could dare to lead the hardy mountaineers into the battle-field against even the legal government. The rude descendants and sons of Ossian seem, in these early days, to have had no idea of regular subordination and obedience to the "powers that be."

This piece of genuine Scottish history is magically amplified by Galt, the entertaining author of "The Spaewife." Bishop Finlay and Lord James wished to raise the Lennox-men and the M'Farlanes to arms in their behalf. The Lord James, therefore, sent Bishop Finlay to M'Farlane, chief of Glenfruin, on the banks of Lochlomond. The sage bishop is thus grotesquely described in setting out on his embassy:—"A sedate rough Highland poney was accordingly provided to carry the bishop over the rugged hills, and the skin of an otter was laid on its back, as an emblem and substitute for a saddle; two thongs, cut from the raw hide of a cow, were used as stirrups, for in those days tanned leather was not found among the Celts; and for a bridle, there was another broad thong; and the bit which was put into the mouth of the bishop's shelly, was the rusty key of the Provost of Dumbarton's door, which the chief of the M'Farlanes had, a short time before, taken away with him when in the town on a pillaging expedition;

but which had been recovered by some of the Earl of Lennox's men, with all the other spoil, from the M'Farlanes, as they were returning home to Arrochar."

George Buchanan, the Scottish historian—classical poet and tutor of James the Sixth—was born in the year 1506, at Killearn, on the banks of the water of Blane. He was one of five sons. His family was far from being affluent. His maternal uncle, James Herriot, perceiving the very promising talents of George, when a boy about twelve or fourteen years of age, sent him to the burgh school of Dumbarton. After remaining two or three years at our seminary, his uncle removed him from this, and, in the year 1522, sent him to prosecute his education in Paris, the capital of France: there he applied himself diligently, for a long period, to his classical studies, and especially to the cultivation of poetry, of which he was a very great ornament. He died on the 28th Sept. 1582, in the 77th year of his age. A chaste obelisk is erected to his memory at Killearn.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LOCH AND BEN-LOMOND.

Loch-Lomond is the largest and most picturesque fresh water lake in Great Britain. It is the Prince of Caledonian Lakes: an immense sheet of water, larger, it is said, than all the ponds of Cumberland and Westmoreland put together. It is computed to be thirty-two miles long, and from one to ten miles broad. In depth it varies from twenty to three hundred fathoms. Its surface is twenty-four feet higher than the Clyde. Some years ago it was proposed by a few of the surrounding land proprietors to deepen the mouth of the Leven, for the purpose of draining off part of the water of the Loch, by which a few acres of ground might be gained, at the expense of much of the romantic scenery around. Within its compass are twenty-five islands, some of which are of considerable extent. After heavy rains in winter, the Loch has been known at times to have risen six feet. The water which flows from it by the "crystal Leven" is remarkably pure, and well adapted for bleaching purposes, establishments for which adorn the banks of the river. This is accounted for, by supposing that the water which runs down from the hills, owing to the extent of the loch, has ample time to settle and deposit its earthy particles before it issues from the opening at Balloch.

The Leven flows from the south-west end of Loch-Lomond,

and falls into the Clyde, after a short but beauteous serpentine course of little more than five miles. It is a stream unequalled for the pure transparency of its waters, and the romantic loveliness of its banks. It is worthy of the immortality which the celebrated Smollet has given to it in the following classic Ode

ON THE RIVER LEVEN.

"On Leven's banks while free to rove,
And tune the rural pipe to love,
I envied not the happiest swain
That ever trod the Arcadian plain.
Pure stream! in whose transparent wave
My youthful limbs I wont to lave;
No torrent stains thy limpid source;
No rocks impede thy dimpling course,
That sweetly warbles o'er its bed,
With white, round, polished pebbles spread;
While, lightly poised, the scaly brood
In myriads cleave thy crystal flood;
The springing trout, in speckled pride;
The salmon, monarch of the tide;
The ruthless pike, intent on war;
The silver eel, and mottled parr.
Devolving from thy parent lake,
A charming maze thy waters make,
By bowers of beech and groves of pine,
And hedges flower'd with eglantine.
Still on thy banks, so gaily green,
May numerous herds and flocks be seen;
And lasses chaunting o'er the pail;
And shepherds piping in the dale;
And ancient faith, that knows no guile;
And industry, embrown'd with toil;
And hearts resolv'd, and hands prepar'd,
The blessings they enjoy to guard."

Numerous streams flow into the loch from the adjacent mountains, the most considerable of which are the Falloch, the Endrick, the Luss, and the Fruin. The river Falloch is generally about sixty to eighty feet broad, with three to three and a-half feet of water in summer, and often five to six in winter.

In addition to the usual variety of splendid sailing enjoyed by tourists on this enchanting lake, the steamer runs about three miles up this fine stream, arriving at a commodious basin in the vicinity of Glenfalloch Inn, where passengers are comfortably landed on the enchanting odoriferous Highland heather. Passengers are conveyed from Tarbet, on Lochlomond side, across the isthmus to the head of Loch Long at Arrochar, whence they are conveyed down that loch by steam to Greenock, Glasgow, Edinburgh, &c. thus accomplishing the circuit of both lochs in one day. A splendid new iron steamer will soon be ready to place on the lake as a consort to the Water-Witch.

The Fruin empties itself into the lake, and proves one of its chief feeders. This stream abounds with very fine trout. The glen or valley of the Fruin has attained considerable historical notoriety, from its having been the scene, in 1602, of a desperate conflict, in consequence of the renewal of some old quarrels, between Sir Humphrey Colquhoun of Luss, the chief of that surname, and Alex. Macgregor, chief of the clan Macgregor. Luss's clan were completely overthrown, with the loss of two hundred men, besides one of the bailies of Dumbarton, with several gentlemen, and a great many of its burgesses, who were all slain. To witness this lamentable contest, in which many of the burgh officials were engaged, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty young students and boys left the public academy on that morning for the banks of Lochlomond. Having arrived at the fatal spot, and being deeply and earnestly interested in the result, they very incautiously stood near the scene of conflict as spectators. At the close of the battle, the students and boys were, by order of some of the chiefs, cruelly massacred!! None of the alleged murderers, it is said, were of the Macgregor clan; whose chief, when he compelled the youths to enter a church near the spot, instead of standing exposed to random shots from the combatants, had no view but to preserve their lives, and to detain them as hostages, if circumstances required a pledge for the safety of his own people. In this severe contest in the valley of the Fruin, or the Vale of Lamentation, as the name implies, a great many fell on both sides, but most on the part of the Colquhouns. One account states that between two and three hundred of the latter fell in the field and in flight; but another contemporary authority confines the slaughter to "sixty honest men, besyde women and

bairnes;" and another account states, that "there were slaine of the country people, specially of the surname of Colquhoun, to the number of four score persons or thereby, of which number many were landed men of good rank." The Justiciary records limit the number to "seven scoir persons slaine at Glenfruite." It appears, from the indictment against Allester Macgregor, that Tobias Smollett, who is therein designated a baillie of Dumbarton, with many other burgesses of this town, were among the slain.

A very remarkable transaction is recorded to have taken place after the battle. A great many of the widows of those slain in the conflict, on the side of the Colquhouns, dressed themselves in deep mourning, and appeared before King James the Sixth at Stirling, mounted on white palfreys, and demanding vengeance on the Macgregors. Each petitioner exhibited on a spear her husband's bloody shirt, to make a more lasting impression on the feelings of the king. The solemn device succeeded to their utmost wishes, for the sympathies of James were easily excited, and the most summary proceedings were instituted against the clan Gregor. Not long after the conflict, the Privy Council issued an act, abolishing the very name of Macgregor—all who bore it were commanded, on pain of death, to adopt some other surname. Those engaged in the battle of Glenfruin, and other predatory incursions mentioned in the act, were prohibited, under pain of death, from carrying any other weapon than a pointless knife to eat their victuals; and it was a capital crime for more than four of them to meet together at one time. These stringent acts were repeatedly renewed in the reigns of James the Sixth and Charles the First. Allester Macgregor, with eighteen of his friends, were apprehended and taken to Edinburgh, on the evening of the 18th of January, and immediately thrown into prison. On the 20th, the chief, with four gentlemen of his clan, and Patrick M'Neill, his servant, were "dilatit, accusit, and perseit," at the instance of Sir Thos. Hamilton of Monkland, Lord-Advocate, of having plotted the destruction of Sir Alex. Colquhoun of Luss, his family, friends, and retainers, and also the whole surname of Buchanan, and of intending to plunder and lay waste their property. The particulars of the conflict of Glenfruin is then stated, with the loss of life and plunder which followed. The jury unanimously found the prisoners guilty, and they were

ordered to be carried to the cross of Edinburgh, where they were to be "hangit upone ane gibbet until thay be deid, and thairafter thair heidis, legis, armes, and remanent pairtis of thair bodeis to be quarterit and put upone publict places," and all their property forfeited to the king's use as "convict of the saidis tressonabile crymes." The execution of Macgregor and his friends took place on the day of their sentence. Seven Macgregors had arrived at Edinburgh as pledges for the performance of certain conditions, and the government took the opportunity of the execution of their chief to hang them also, without even the form of a trial. By way of distinction, the gibbet on which Macgregor of Glenstrae was executed was elevated his own height above his retainers who suffered with him. They remained suspended the whole night. Calderwood, the historian, mentions that "a young man, called James Hope, beholding the execution, fell down, and power was taken from the half of his body. When he was carried to a house, he cried out that 'ane of the Highlandmen had shott him with ane arrow.' He died on the Sabbath after." Such was the result of the battle of Glenfruin, and it must be admitted that, however culpable the Macgregors were, and deserving of punishment for their many acts of violence and barbarity, of illegal oppression and plunder, their clan suffered most severe chastisement, and the summary vengeance of the law was directed against them in a manner which is without president in the annals of this country. Yet, although they were thus rigorously treated by James the Sixth and Charles the First, who chose to renew all the statutes passed in his father's reign against them, nevertheless they, to a man, attached themselves warmly, during the civil war, to the cause of the latter monarch. (See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials—Laing's History of Scotland, &c.)

From the period of this contest till the year 1757, being more than a century and a half, in the spring of every year, the tragical fate of the "Scholars of Dumbarton" was commemorated by the schoolboys of this ancient town. They assembled on the day of the supposed anniversary, the Dux of the highest class, solemnly arrayed in the white vestments of the tomb, was laid on a bier, covered with the parish clergyman's gown, and then carried by his companions to a grave previously opened for the occasion. The whole school, bearing wooden

guns reversed, performed with much solemnity the ceremony of interment, and recited Gaelic and English odes over the dead, alluding to the horrid massacre. They then returned to the seminary singing songs of lamentation and woe. Superstition represents the ghosts of the victims as being peculiarly hostile to the clan of the Macgregors. The Fruin is, in Gaelic, called "The Stream of Young Ghosts;" and it is believed that if a Macgregor crosses it after sun-set, he will be scared by unhallowed spectres.

The property and lands on the left bank of the Lake belongs principally to the following gentlemen:—Alexander Smollett, Esq. of Bonhill, Member of Parliament for the county of Dumbarton; his estate and mansion-house of Cameron, situated on the verge of the lake, form a very attractive object; William Campbell, Esq. of Tillichewan Castle; George Buchanan, Esq. of Arden; and Sir James Colquhoun, Bart. of Luss. That on the right bank almost entirely to the Duke of Montrose. The numerous islands are the property of the Duke and Sir James. About two-thirds of the loch, and most of the islands, are in the county of Dumbarton; the remainder, with the greater portion of the right bank, are included in the county of Stirling. Lochlomond is remarkable for producing the pollack, or powan, a kind of fresh water herring, so named from the striking resemblance it bears to that fish. Formerly these fish were found only in this loch, but now they are found abundantly in Loch Heck, in Argyleshire, and in other lochs in Scotland. The pollack, or powan, is a very dry unpalatable article of food.

The steamer, on leaving Balloch, and pleasuring round the circuit of the loch, and winding the enchanting islands, arrives at Inveruglass. Here there is a ferry across the lake to Rowardenan Inn, at the base of Ben-Lomond, where the ascent to the mountain is generally commenced. At this Inn Highland shelties or ponies may be procured, which may be used by the most timorous of gentlemen and the most nervous of ladies with the greatest safety, till within a little of the top, they are such sure-footed animals.

Ben-Lomond is one of the giants—one of the Goliahs among the Caledonian mountains; and if from his summit the "*half of the world*" is not beheld, yet, if the day is clear and favourable, the tourist may see the half of Scotland in one perspective glance. Ben-Lomond is 3262 feet above the level of the sea,

and 3240 feet above the level of the lake. It has an ascent of six miles, requiring about three hours of continual exertion to attain its summit. If the atmosphere is clear, the view becomes more extensive and charming as you advance, till you reach the top, where it is surpassingly grand. Looking towards the south, the extensive loch, with its numerous fairy islands, reduced to the most pleasing miniature—the ancient rock of Dumbarton, and a great part of the northern, western, and southern counties, meet the enraptured eye. On the right is a very fine prospect of the Firth of Clyde, including the isolated rock of Ailsa, and the islands of Bute, Arran, and Cumbræ, and the hills of Cantyre. On the left is the town of Stirling and its castle—the windings of the Forth—and, in the far distance, the capital of Scotland, the city of Edinburgh, with its romantic castle. To the north are the beautiful waters of Loch Katrine, Lochard, and the Loch of Monteith; and, far beyond these, immense Mountains rise to view in uninterrupted succession. The principal mountains in this direction are Ben-Voirlich, Ben-Duchray, Ben-Arthur, Ben-Cruachan, and Ben-Nevis, &c. all of which will be pointed out by the guide. In short, there is here everything that is calculated to fill man with a deep sense of his utter insignificance, and to raise in his mind an unaffected love, mingled with reverential awe, toward the great Author of his being, and the glorious Architect of the universe. The scene may defy the pencil and the pen, but still it is nobly poetical, as it excites sensations of the purest sublimity. The foreground, on the north, is a terrific precipitous perpendicular, and perhaps more than two thousand feet to its base. The effect of a cloud coming over the mountain a furlong beneath the tourist's feet, and seeming to sever the visitant from "the work-day world," is inexpressibly grand. The rainbow, or the lightning, with the attendant peal of thunder, sometimes heighten the awful pomp of the scene, and peculiarly dispose the virtuous mind to shake off all terrestrial impressions, and "to ascend from nature up to nature's God."

On a window in Tarbet Inn, on the opposite bank of the Lake, there was inscribed on two panes of glass a small poem, richly deserving notice here. The little effusion was penned on the impulse of the moment, and its contents will prove a useful guide to those who ascend Ben-Lomond. It was written with the point of a diamond, by an English gentleman, imme-

diately on his return from that lofty mountain, in October, 1771.

“Stranger, if o’er this pane of glass perchance
 Thy roving eye should cast a languid glance;
 If taste for grandeur and the dread sublime
 Prompt thee Ben-Lomond’s fearful height to climb;
 Here gaze attentive, nor with scorn refuse
 The friendly rhyming of a tavern muse;—
 For thee that muse this rude inscription penned—
 Penned for thy guide, by humble poet’s hand.
 Heed thou the poet; he thy steps shall lead
 Safe o’er yon tow’ring hill’s aspiring head,—
 Attention then lend to my informing lay,
 Read how I dictate, as I point the way:—
 Trust not at first a quick advent’rous pace,
Six miles its top points gradual to the base,
 Up the high rise, with panting haste I passed,
 And gained the long laborious steep at last.
 More prudent thou, when once you pass the deep,
 With measured steps and *slow*, ascend the steep:
 Oft stay thy pace—oft taste the *cordial drop*,
 And rest, oh, rest—long, long upon the top;
 There hail the breezes, nor with toilsome haste
 Down the rough slope thy precious vigour waste;
 So shall thy wondering sight at once survey—
 Vales, lakes, woods, mountains, islands, rocks, and sea;
 Huge hills, all heaped in crowded order, stand,
 Stretched o’er the Northern and the Western land—
 Vast, gorgeous! while Ben, who often shrouds
 His lofty summit in a veil of clouds,
 High o’er the rest displays superior state,
 In proud pre-eminence sublimely great.
 One side, all awful to the astonished eye,
 Presents a steep, *three hundred fathoms high*;
 The scene tremendous, shocks the startled sense
 With all the pomp of dread magnificence;
 All these, and more, shall thou transported see,
 And own a faithful monitor in me.”

The steamer next passes Inversnaid. At this picturesque

place, about fifteen or twenty years ago, there was a corn mill, driven by a small cascade, supplied by the stream of the Arkill, which rushes down from the neighbouring mountains. When the celebrated poet, Wordsworth, was on a visit to the lake, and passing this interesting spot with a numerous party in the steamer, he by chance beheld the miller's beautiful daughter at her father's door. In a moment, surrounded as he then was by the sublimities of nature, the poet's energies and feelings were instantly summoned, and produced the following lines :—

“ Sweet Highland girl, a very shower
Of beauty is thy earthly dower ;
Yes, I am loath, nor pleased at heart,
Oh, mountain maid—from thee to part ;
For I, methinks, till I grow old,
As fair a maid shall ne'er behold
As I do now ;—the cabin small—
The lake—the bay—the waterfall—
And thee,—the spirit of them all.”

Proceeding onwards to the head of the loch, and up the river Falloch, where the steamer remains an hour or two, she then returns by the west side of the lake to Balloch about four in the afternoon. If the weather has proved favourable, the tourist may now be said to have witnessed a concentration of nature's wildest grandeur. Its crowning features are beauty, variety, and sublimity. Throughout the fascinating tour there is nothing like sameness ; every opening prospect appears, if possible, more interesting, grand, and sublime than that which precedes it. The whole cannot be more correctly, eloquently, and impartially described, than in the words of the French traveller, M. St. Fond :—“ The magnificent scenery of Lochlomond, the fine sun which gilded its waters, the silvered rocks that skirted its banks, the flowery and verdant moss, the black oxen, and the white sheep of the mountains, shall never be effaced from my memory ; even among the oranges, the myrtles, and the jessamins of Italy, I shall therefore often meditate upon the wild and romantic beauties of Lochlomond.”

PART III.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND CASTLE OF DUMBARTON.

The Collegiate Church at Dunbritton, founded by Isabella, Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox—Hospital or Almshouse attached—Superiority and Patronage of this Religious Establishment in the hands of the Dukes of Lennox—Gifted by them to the Monks of Kilwinning—the Lady Altar—the Altar of the Holy Cross—a Chapel founded in the Castle at an early age—Adam, a Chaplain, mentioned—the Patronage of the Parish Church vested in the Magistrates by Royal Charter in the year 1618—Claimed by the Earl of Eglintoun in 1739—Description of the *Old Parish Church* and Erection of the *New* in 1811—a Relique of Antiquity.

IN the year 1450, the Collegiate Church of Dunbritton was founded by Lady Isabella, Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox, widow of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, who was beheaded at Stirling in 1425. To this church were attached a small chapel and chaplain, and also an hospital or "almshouse" for poor "beadmen." "*Beadmen*" were those of the Catholic persuasion who regularly said their Rosaries, or told or counted their beads, or probably they were the poor of the flock. The Earls of Lennox held the patronage of these establishments probably till near the period of the Reformation. During the long era of the domination of the Roman Catholic Church, the Sovereigns of Scotland, among other important privileges, frequently conferred very extensive civil powers on the Abbots of Monasteries, which they had a right to exercise over all those different territories they had acquired, as well as within the bounds of their immediate charge. Privileges of this nature, in the remote days of antiquity, obtained the name of powers of regality. The jurisdiction so granted, seems to have been extended not only to mere civil cases, but

also to capital crimes. At and before the Reformation, these very peculiar jurisdictions did not cease—they merely passed into the hands of influential noblemen or others; but they were generally accompanied with the temporal possessions of the exiled monks. The ancient Earls of Lennox held a castle at Catter, on the banks of the Endrick, a considerable stream which flows into Lochlomond. Here, in the vicinity of the castle, and on an artificial mound of earth where justice was administered in former days, stood the Earl's Gallows, the necessary associate of the earl's courts, as well as the courts of his vassals. "Maurice Buchanan obtained from his superior, Donald, Earl of Lennox, a charter of confirmation of the lands of Buchanan, with the powers of jurisdiction over life and members; but all persons who should be condemned to death in the court of Maurice and his heirs were to be executed on the Earl's Gallows at Cathyr." (See Chartulary of Lennox.) The Earl of Lennox, about the commencement of the sixteenth century, gifted the patronage and temporalities of this collegiate church of Dumbarton to the monks of Kilwinning. At the period of the Reformation it appears that this establishment yielded to these monks and friars a clear revenue of £66 : 13 : 4*d.* sterling money annually. This church and hospital was originally dedicated to Saint Patrick the apostle of Ireland. The chapter consisted of a provost and several prebendaries, and it was endowed with the parish churches of Bonhill, Fintry, and Strathblane, together with the following lands—to wit, part of the lands of Strathblane; the five-merk lands of Ladytown, in the parish of Bonhill; the forty-shilling lands of Ferk-inch; the forty-shilling lands of Struckroger, also in the parish of Bonhill; the forty-shilling lands of Ballerney bogs, in the parish of Row; and the five-merk lands of Knockdowie, in the parish of Roseneath; besides a suitable mansion with gardens and an orchard at Dumbarton; and also some of the rigs of the bogs, which regularly furnished so much wax annually for the service of the altar. The farm of Auchendenan, on the banks of Lochlomond, furnished also so many *creels of peats* yearly to the parish teacher for fuel to the school, to warm the little childrens' *taes* during the cold winter months. This latter bonus appears to have been given annually from time immemorial. The peats however have, in more modern times, been converted into sterling money, which is claimed by the burgh,

and now goes into the Corporation Fund. In the burgh records this item is curiously stated "Conversion of Peats, £1 : 10s." The hospital, or alms'-house, connected with the old parish church, remained till the period of the Reformation, when it and the small chapel adjoining were torn down and partially destroyed. These buildings thus lay in a confused state of ruin and dilapidation till the year 1758, when, by consent of the Mortification Fund managers, they were entirely demolished, and the stones partly taken to erect the bridge called the "Knowl Burn," and sometimes the "Gallows' Mollan Bridge," now called the East Bridge; and partly to erect that line of small houses for dwellings to the poor situated on the south side of Castle Street, which line of buildings were executed and reared at the earnest request of the late amiable and devoted Mr. Freebairn, minister of the parish. One shilling of annual feu-duty is owing to the managers of the Mortification Fund from the ground on which the above line of small houses is erected, viz. from the year 1758 to 1846, a period of eighty-eight years, being the sum of £4 : 8s. To corroborate these last statements, I shall here give two brief excerpts of minutes from the Mortification Fund records. The dilapidation and consequent entire demolition of this ancient religious and charitable edifice is noticed in the following excerpts of minutes taken from the Mortification Fund records, 22d Dec. 1758:—"The magistrates represented to the managers that they had contracted for a new bridge to favour the entry and policies of the town, and as the stones about the ruinous alms'-house, belonging to the Mortification, were presently useless, they would be glad the meeting would encourage a public good, as far as to part with these stones for carrying their plan of the bridge at the Gallows' Mollan, or Knowl Burn, into execution, which being considered, the meeting did agree that these stones were just now useless, and that if the magistrates would pass from their claim upon the desks on the south side of the church, commonly called 'the Schooler's Seats,' which might be fitted up and set up for a considerable interest for the poor, and to allow the kirk session to set and repair them for that purpose, they would grant their desire of applying the stones aforesaid for the purpose of the new bridge." "6th March, 1760.—It was reported to the meeting, that, at the magistrates and Town Council were going just now to pus

up a dyke on the ground where the alms'-house stood, if the managers thought it would be for the benefit of the funds, they take this opportunity, as they had the ground of their own, to accept of a piece of money in place of the said dyke, and fill up the ground with a range of small houses, to sell for the benefit of the poor, which the meeting considering, they so far agreed to the motion as to appoint William Muir, mason, the two William Wilsons, wrights, and William Davidson, sclater, to give in such estimates of the expense as they, for their own parts, would execute this work for—referring to the subsequent meeting to judge whether the thing appears to them to be really for the benefit of the poor or not.

(Signed)

JOHN FREEBAIRN, Minister.

JAMES COLQUHOUN, }
JAMES FLINT, } Bailies."

"1761, Jan. 6.—Upon reading the minutes of the committee's transactions, the general meeting approves of the whole, and particularly ratifies the transaction with respect to the waiste ground on which the alms'-house stood ; and as the magistrates and town council have passed an act for granting ane disposition to Mr. Freebairn to the said ground, and others, as far as they have interest, which disposition being produced and read, bearing a hold off the town of Dumbarton as superiors, and a shilling sterling of ground annual to this Mortification yearly,—the meeting unanimously agree to sign the said disposition, which was done accordingly."

In the year 1570, John Cunningham, of Drumquassel, procured for his son Cuthbert, a boy under age, a presentation to the provostry, or chief of this collegiate church, in order to be a support for him, while at his education, till he would attain twenty-six years of age. For this infant provost his father, above-mentioned, obtained also a grant in feu-farm of a great part of the lands which anciently belonged to the collegiate establishment, to be held by this young provost for payment of a feu-duty of £30 : 6 : 8*d.* yearly, and this extensive grant was afterwards confirmed by Royal Charter from the Crown, on the 10th of March, 1571.

The superiority and feu-duties of the previously-mentioned lands attached to the collegiate church subsequently fell into the hands of the succeeding Dukes of Lennox, as the patrons

of the provostry; and they also received and held all the patronages and other emoluments belonging to all the other surrounding parish churches connected with this church. There was, as we have formerly observed, at an early period, a church at Dumbarton, and this burgh was also, from a very remote time, the ancient seat of the Reguli of the Strathclyde Britons. The church, during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, was a rectory under lay patronage. In the year 1296, Allan De Danfres, parson of the church of Dumbarton, swore fealty to Edward the First, in consequence of which he obtained from his Majesty *a writ* or order to the Sheriff of Dumbarton for the immediate delivery of all his money and other property which he had previously forfeited by sedition and rebellion. Towards the end of the sixteenth century this church, with all the tithes and pertinents thereto belonging, was again bequeathed by the Duke of Lennox to the monastery of Kilwinning, as we previously remarked, and they held it till the dawn of the Reformation in 1688. These monks received and enjoyed all the varied revenues accruing from this establishment till the above eventful era, and the church was regularly served by a curate, who was paid by them. (See Chartulary of Lennox, II. page 130.) Within this church there were, before the Reformation, several altars at which the Roman Catholic services were performed by chaplains, who were generally supported by the bequeathments and endowments of dying and deceased friends, who were supposed to be pious individuals. One of these altars was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was called the Lady Altar. A chaplain who officiated at this altar received 20s. yearly out of the king's rents from the burgh funds. (See the Burgh Treasurer's Account for the year 1520.) There was another chaplainry, which was founded at this altar, and was endowed with certain annual rents from property within the town. In the church there was also a second altar dedicated to the Holy Cross, called the Rood Altar. At the Reformation, the chaplainry of the Rood Altar was held by Sir Robert Watson, who reported its revenues to be £20 sterling yearly.

Within the castle of Dunbreton, in early times, there was a chapel founded, which was originally dedicated to Saint Patrick. A chaplain of the fortress, of the name of Adam, appears as a witness to a deed in the year 1271. The patronage of this

chapel seems originally to have belonged to the crown ; but, previous to the Reformation, it appears to have been acquired in some manner, either by charter or otherwise, as it had fallen into the possession of the Archbishop of Glasgow. Robert the Third, in the year 1390, granted to Saint Patrick's chapel, in the castle, ten merks sterling yearly, out of the king's rents, from the burgh of Dumbarton.

The magistrates and community of the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton, in the year 1618, obtained a Royal grant from King James the Sixth of the advowson or patronage of the parish church, with all the tithes, parsonages, and vicarages; and also of all the lands, tenements, and revenues of the altars and chaplainries, which, in preceding centuries, had been founded on or belonging to that church. Under this said Royal Charter, the magistrates and town council of this burgh, for the time being, continue to exercise the patronage of the parish church till the present day.

The Burgh, for the privilege of holding this patronage, remits annually to Her Majesty's Exchequer the sum of 12 pounds Scots, or 1*l.* sterling, being a regular yearly charge made against her by the Crown, with 1*s.* 1*3**d.* sterling, or one merk Scots, as the amount of the feu-duties of five tenements of lands—of old belonging to the Commendator of Kilwinning;—for which see the town treasurer's accounts for the year 1834. A commendator is the title of an ecclesiastic who holds a principal benefice in the Episcopal Church. The five tenements of lands above referred to, as being within the burgh, cannot now be indicated. This Commendator of Kilwinning was John, Archbishop of Saint Andrew's, who held not only this title, but also held and collected all the revenues of the Monastery of the former place. Whether this said archbishop and pluralist sold, or pretended to have sold, these several feu-duties, revenues, and patronage pertaining to the parish church of Dumbarton, or whether on his death they reverted to the Crown, or came into the hands of the Earl of Eglinton, does not appear, as history is silent on the matter. When documents are silent, conjecture may be ingenious, but it is seldom safe on the part of a historian to indulge it. Nevertheless, this said Earl pretended to have become possessed of them at an early age; for in the Burgh Records, of date 1739, we find it mentioned that he claimed title to a

portion, nay, even the whole of the tiends or tithes of lands in the parish of Dumbarton, and also the exclusive patronage of the parish church. In consequence of this unfounded claim, the then magistrates and council were served each with a summons to the Court of Session, at the instance of the said Earl. The town council, however, nobly and indignantly spurned the very idea of being thus sacrilegiously deprived of a privilege which they conscientiously believed was held by them and their predecessors in office immediately from the Crown by Royal Charter; they therefore instructed the town-clerk, that, with all necessary speed, he should select the Charter, with other important papers referring to the subject, from out of the "Charter Chest," "and a man fitted to defend the town employed." These are the words of the minute of council written on the occasion. The result was, that the magistrates were victorious in court over the Earl of Eglinton.— (See Burgh Records, of date 1739.)

This church and alms'-house, with the other buildings therewith connected, were originally erected, as we formerly stated, under the auspices and direction, and at the sole expense of the Duchess of Lennox. Being old and in disrepair, they were taken down and the present substantial new building erected on the same site in the year 1811, being, as was correctly supposed, about 369 years old. The old church was in the form of a cross, surmounted with a spire at the West end. Its internal appearance was very unique and ancient. The pulpit stood on the South side of the building, or in the Nave of the edifice, and immediately in front of it, to the North, were Mr. Campbell of Stonefield's Gallery and Aisle, and also the Magistrates' and Town Council's Gallery. The galleries to the West of the pulpit belonged in property to, and were occupied chiefly by, the members of the four incorporated trades of the burgh. The Incorporation of Shoemakers held their property and sittings nearly under these galleries. To the East of the pulpit was the gallery for the accommodation of the officers and infantry of the Castle, or Soldier's Loft, and the gallery for the Dean of Guild Court, and the Guild Brethren. These two galleries were again overtopped by another small gallery, which ascended to nearly the roof of the church. This latter gallery, from its having a commanding view of the whole congregation, and from its being chiefly

occupied by single ladies, was ludicrously denominated "the hen bank." Around the upper part of the walls of the sacred edifice were suspended a number of painted boards, each of which indicated in large letters a gift of so many merks Scots, or pundis Scots, bequeathed by some charitable deceased friend to the poor.

It would appear that church accommodation in former days was very much required, as an honourable lady of wealth and influence in our neighbourhood petitioned the Kirk Session of Dumbarton, about 224 years ago, for a sitting in the parish church, which she could scarcely obtain. The following is an extract from the Kirk Session Records in reference to this subject:—"March 20th, 1622.—The whilk day Dame Jean Hamiltone, Lady of Luss, in respect of her residence amangst us, and yet having no convenient place wherein to sit in ye kirk, desired that ye Kirk Session would design and appoint som room for her; whilk desire the Session fand very reasonable, and grants hir libertie to build ane seat for hirsell, upon ye tap of the East gavel."

It appears that the old steeple attached to the church often required repair, and we find that the poor's money was often borrowed for that purpose. A minute of 30th April, 1620, says, "The whilk day there was delivert to Robt. Colquhoun, in compleat payment for his thicken the steeple, 40 merks; whereof 14 merks and half were taken out of the penalty box, and 17 borrowed out of the poor folkes silver." This "thickening the auld kirk steeple" has been matter of great moment during several generations. At one time, indeed, it almost led to a disruption of the Church and State here, at least their representatives within this Burgh—we mean the Kirk Session and the Town Council. Here is an instance of this, in the following extract from the Burgh Records, May 30, 1756:—"The steeple of the Parish Kirk being in a ruinous state, the Town Council hereby order it to be repaired, and the trees in the kirk yeard to be cut down and applied for that purpose; and on the Kirk Session refusing to allow this, a process to be immediately instituted to compel them; and this will and resolution of the Town Council to be intimated to them accordingly." It may be safely inferred, we think, in this matter, that the Kirk rulers quietly obeyed the State.

A RELIQUE OF ANTIQUITY.—The following original charter,

granted by King Malcom Kenmore, in the year 1057, of the lands of Powmode, was by accident lately discovered in an old oak chest.

"I, Malcom Kanmore the King, the first year of my reign, give to thee, Barron Hunter, the upper and nether lands of Powmode, and all the bounds within the flood, with the hoop and the Hooptown, and all the other bounds up and down, above the earth to heaven, and all below the earth to hell, as free to thee and thine as ever God gave to me and mine; and that for a bow and a broad arrow when I come to hunt upon Yarrow. And for the mair faith of this, I bite this white wax with my ain teeth, before Margaret my wife and Mall my nurse.

"Sic Subscribitur, MALCOM KANMORE, King.
MARGARET, Witness.
MALL, Witness."

PART IV.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND CASTLE OF DUMBARTON.

Haco King of Norway's Expedition to the Firth of Clyde—His Capturing the Islands of Lochlomond and surrounding Country—The consequent Battle of Larga, with the complete Discomfiture of his Fleet and Army by the Scots, in the Reign of Alexander III. 1263—Dumbarton the principal Naval Station of King James IV. and V.—Description of a large Ship built by James IV. at Tullibarden—Infant Queen Mary carried to Dumbarton Castle for safety—Embarked for France for her Education—John Duke of Albany arrives from France at the Harbour of Dumbarton—The Earl of Lennox in possession of the Castle in 1544, during his contention for the Regency—Earl of Morton a Prisoner there—Lord George Douglas created Earl of Dumbarton by Charles II.—Fortress taken through stratagem by the Covenanters, in 1639—Recaptured by the Royal Forces—Retaken again by the Covenanters, under the command of the Earl of Glencairn—Robert Ker of Keraland, a landed Gentleman in Lanarkshire, who was zealously attached to the principles of the Reformation, a Prisoner in the Castle—His Petition to the Privy Council of Scotland—Dumbarton Castle taken by escalade, under the Command of Captain Crawford of Jordanhill—Inventory of the Cannons, Bullets, and Provisions, &c. taken—Description of the "Gallow Flail," an ancient Military Weapon found in the Castle.

It would appear that, in very early ages, a number of the Hebridean or Western Islands of Scotland were possessed by the Norwegians and Danes—whether they were ceded to the Norwegian monarchs, or acquired by conquest, history does not explicitly inform us; but it is more than probable they were gained by the power of arms. The following is the Norwegian account of this far-famed invasion:—

"At the time that King Haco ruled over Norway, Alexander the Third, the son of William, was then King of Scotland. He was a very great prince, and very ambitious of the world's praise. He sent, as an embassy from Scotland in the western

seas, two bishops to Haco, king of Norway. At first they begged to know if King Haco would give up those territories in the Hebrides, which King 'Magnus of the Bare Foot' had unjustly wrested from Malcolm, predecessor to the Scottish King. King Haco replied, that Magnus had settled with Malcolm what districts the Norwegians should have in Scotland, or in the islands which lay near to it. He affirmed, however, that the King of Scotland had no sovereignty in the Hebrides at the time when King Magnus had won them from King Godred; and, also, that King Magnus had then only asserted his birthright. The Scottish commissioners then said, that the King of Scotland was willing to purchase all the Hebrides from King Haco, and entreated him to value them in fine silver. The king replied, that he knew no such urgent want of money as would induce him to sell his inheritance. With this answer the Scottish ambassadors departed. From this and other causes, some misunderstandings arose betwixt the two kings. The Scottish monarch, however, renewed the negotiations, and sent to Norway many explanations and proposals, but they received no other answer than what is above related. When Alexander could not purchase these territories from King Haco, he, in the year 1249, took other measures in hand, which were to take the islands by conquest. Therefore, collecting strong forces throughout all Scotland, he prepared for a voyage to the Hebrides, and was fully determined to subdue these islands under his dominion. He made it manifest before all his subjects that he would not desist till he had set his standard east of the clefts of Thurso, and had reduced under him all the provinces which the Norwegian monarch possessed to the westward of the German Ocean. King Alexander wished John, King of the Isles, to take part with him in the subjugation of the Hebrides. The Scottish King, moreover, added, that if he would join him in good earnest, he would reward him with many great estates on the mainland of Scotland, together with his confidence and favour. All King John's relations and friends pressed him to assent; but he behaved well and uprightly, and declared that he would not break his oath of allegiance to King Haco. King Alexander had a fleet speedily equipped, and he sailed in the front of the expedition himself. While lying near the Isle of Mull, he dreamed a dream, and imagined three men came to him; he thought one of them was

in royal robes, but very stern, ruddy in countenance, somewhat stout, and of a middling size; another seemed of a slender make, but active, and, of all men, the most engaging and majestic; the third, again, was of a very great stature, but his features were distorted, and, of all the rest, he was the most unsightly. They addressed their speech to the king, and inquired whether he meant to invade the Hebrides. Alexander answered, that he certainly proposed to subject these islands to his own dominion and sway. The genius of the vision bade him '*go back*,' and told him the measure would not turn out to his advantage. The king then related his dream to his captains and confidential friends; they advised him to return, but he would not, and in a short time thereafter he was seized with a disorder and died. The Hebridians say, that the men whom the king saw in his dream were the spirits of St. Olive, one of the former princes of Norway; St. Magnus, Earl of Orkney; and St. Columba, the celebrated apostle of Iona. King Haco, hearing of this invasion of his dominions by the Scottish King, held a great council of war near Bergen, in Norway, and there a numerous host and fleet were collected together. The king then declared that this whole army was intended to proceed against Scotland, in the western seas, and to revenge the inroad which the Scotch had made into his dominions. Prince Magnus begged to have the command of this expedition instead of King Haco, who should remain at home. He thanked him with many courteous words, but he observed that he himself was older, and had longer acquaintance with the western islands, and therefore he would go in person and command the fleet and army.

"In this expedition King Haco had a great vessel, which he caused to be built and constructed at Bergen in Norway. It was built entirely of oak, and contained twenty-seven banks of oars and rowers. It was ornamented with the heads and necks of dragons, beautifully overlaid with gold—he had also a great many other well stored and well appointed ships. He was joined by the fleet of Magnus, King of the Isle of Man, so that Haco's combined fleet amounted to more than one hundred large vessels, all well equipped with provisions, men, and arms. They arrived at the Hebrides in the month of June, 1263. They fired, pillaged, and totally destroyed the islands of Mull, Gigha, Kintyre, &c. John, King of the Isles, promised and endeavoured to do everything in his power to

effectuate a peace between the Norwegian and the Scottish Kings; but this he could not by any means effect. Soon thereafter King Haco sent Gilbert, Bishop of Hamar, Henry, Bishop of Orkney, Andrew Nicolson, Andrew Platt, and Paul Soor, as envoys, to treat of a peace with the King of Scotland. They appeared at the court of the Scottish Monarch, and laid before him their overtures. He received them very graciously and honourably, and seemed inclined to listen to terms of peace; but he would agree only to such terms as he himself would propose, which he would transmit to King Haco. The Norwegian commissioners then departed, and the Scottish envoys arrived soon thereafter. King Haco had proposed that all the islands to the west of Scotland which he called his, should be named and wrote down. The King of Scotland, on the other hand, had named all such as he would not by any means relinquish, and which he would contend for in honourable warfare. These were—Bute, Arran, and the two Cumbraes. As to other matters, there was very little difference between the Sovereigns; but, however, no final agreement took place. The Scottish Monarch purposely declined coming to any understanding, because summer was now drawing to a close, and the weather was becoming very stormy and boisterous amongst the Western Isles. Finding this, Haco sailed in to the firth of Clyde past the Cumbraes with all his naval forces. The truce was now declared to be totally abandoned. Sixty ships of Haco's fleet sailed up Lochlong, which were commanded by Magnus, King of the Isle of Man. When they came to Arrochar they dragged many of their light boats on shore, and drew them a mile and a half across the isthmus to Lochlomond. On the other side of this immense lake was the Castle and Earldom of Lennox, which they pillaged. In this lake were a great number of islands, and then numerous inhabited: these they all destroyed by fire and sword, capturing some hundreds of black cattle, and otherwise making great havoc and devastation. The Norwegians afterwards retired to their fleet, and encountered a very violent storm, in which ten of their ships were dashed to pieces on the shores and rocks of Lochlong. The remainder of King Haco's fleet lay for some time near the islands of the Cumbraes. Michaelmas fell on a Saturday, and the Monday night following, being 1st of October, there arose a great tempest, with heavy hailstones

and rain. The fleet was therefore forced up the channel of the Clyde; and the tempest continued so furious on the following day, that the masts of many of their vessels were cut away, and others ran aground. Five ships were cast on shore at the village of Largs, and totally destroyed. Indeed, so prodigious was the storm and hurricane, that the Norwegians generally said that it was certainly raised by the power of Scottish magic.

“When the Scots army, under Alexander, saw that the vessels had run aground and were landing the Norwegian troops, they advanced boldly, and furiously attacked them with missile weapons; but the Norwegians gallantly defended themselves under covert of their remaining ships. The Scots made several attempts, at different times, to cut down the landing army, but they failed, and many were wounded and a few killed. The wind and storm somewhat abated, and Haco sent a reinforcement on shore in boats; afterwards the king himself was landed from the fleet, attended by Thorlang Bosi, a Norway prince: they left the commodore's ship in a splendid barge belonging to the ‘Master of Lights.’ ‘Masters of Lights’ were young gentlemen who held lights or tapers in their hands at table, while the Norwegian monarchs dined with their courtiers and other nobility. As soon as the king approached the land the Scots retired a little inland, and the Norwegians continued on shore all the night; but the Scots, nevertheless, during the darkness, entered the transports and carried away as much of the provisions and lading as they possibly could. On the morning of Oct. 3, the king, with a numerous reinforcement, came on shore again, and ordered the transports to be lightened of their provisions, &c. and towed to the ships which lay off the land. The whole Scottish army now advanced under their bold and dauntless Royal commander. The commodore of the Norwegian fleet entreated that King Haco should go on board of the fleet; but he insisted to remain on shore to take a share in the contest and battle. All the commanders further urged him, for his own safety, to betake himself to the flag-ship off land, as they were extremely anxious regarding his life and security. He was at last persuaded, and left the shores in one of his own state barges. The Scottish army now made a rapid and furious approach towards the Norwegians. It consisted of nearly fifteen hundred gallant knights, all of whom rode on

horses, with brazen breastplates; and there were also very many Spanish steeds, mounted in complete fighting armour. Alexander, the Scottish King, had moreover a numerous army of foot soldiers, well accoutred, and, for the most part, armed with bows, arrows, and spears. The Norwegians, who had planted themselves on an eminence, apprehensive of being surrounded, began to retire in disorder towards their boats on the shore. The Scots, at this time, attacked them furiously with arrows, darts, and stones. Showers of other missile weapons were poured upon the Norwegians, who very bravely defended themselves, and retired in good order; but when they approached the sea, each man hurried faster than another, those on the beach supposing that they were all routed. Some therefore leaped into their boats and pushed off from the land, others jumped into the transports, and some into the sea and were drowned. At this crisis, one named Skeine, a Norwegian nobleman, and prime minister of King Haco, fell. In the Scottish army there was a young gallant knight, named Ferash, equally distinguished by his valour, birth, and fortune; he wore a helmet plated with gold, and set with diamonds and very precious stones, and the rest of his armour was most gorgeous and of a piece with it. He rode on his charger along the Norwegian line, which no other Scotchman dared venture. He once and again, with his high mettled steed, galloped along the Norwegian ranks, eyeing their position, and then back again to his own followers, without receiving any injury. Andrew Nicolson, a brave leader of the Danish and Norwegian army—supposed to be originally a Scotchman—had by this time reached near to the Scottish army: He then challenged and encountered this illustrious Scottish knight, and afterwards struck at his thigh with such force that he cut it through the armour with his two-edged Norway sword, which even penetrated to the very saddle. The Norwegians then stripped him of his very beautiful armour and splendid diamond belt, as he lay in his gore on the grassy heath." This battle ended in the complete discomfiture of the Norwegian fleet and army.

John Fordun, a Scottish historian, states, that in this engagement the Scots were commanded by Alexander Stewart, uncle of Walter Stewart, who married Marjory, daughter of Robert the Bruce, and very erroneously adds, that Haco had 160 ships and 20,000 men; and then says, "that by the will

of God, and by the exertions of Queen Saint Margaret, protectoress of the kingdom of Scotland, there arose, on the very day of the battle, a most violent tempest of the sea, which tossing the ships tore up their anchors, made their masts go overboard, and all their tackle gave way, because of the immense billows of the ocean and rage of the winds, so that the ships, being dashed against each other, were wrecked on the lands and on the rocks, and thousands of the mariners were drowned and became the prey of the sea; and those who did reach the land were immediately met by our people and killed on the spot, or put to flight and drowned. Amongst the many thousands who perished, the King of Norway had to lament one noble Norwegian—his grandson—a man of great strength and activity. The king himself effected his escape with great difficulty. Grieved for the great loss of his ships, mariners, and warriors, he with no small difficulty reached the Orkney Islands, where he passed the winter, in the expectation of a more powerful force for the subjugation of the islands of Scotland, but he died." Fordun's account of this battle thus bears a striking similarity in its main features to that of the Norwegian; and the great storm, which both parties considered at the time as supernatural, is imputed by the one to the influence of the tutelary guardian of the kingdom, and by the other to the agency of evil spirits and of Scottish magic.

The Norwegian King, with the remnant of his army and shattered fleet, being met by his other ships from Lochlong, who had sailed on the Lochlomond expedition, proceeded in their disabled condition to Lamlash Bay, and got partially refitted for their return to Norway. Some Scottish historians, however, affirm that Haco had at first arrived at the harbour of Ayr, on the coast of Scotland, with a fleet of 600 sail, and landed 20,000 men—and of these 20,000, 16,000 to 18,000 were slain by the Scots; and of this immense fleet there only remained four vessels, in which the king with his few remaining followers escaped, and landed at Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands, where he died of extreme grief shortly thereafter.

The Danes and Norwegians had, for many previous centuries, often ravaged the Scottish coasts, but this was the last occasion on which that ancient piratical people set foot on Scottish ground in a hostile manner. In the year 872, or about four centuries previous to this battle of the Largs, they

besieged, destroyed, and burned our ancient town of Alcluith, under Olive and Ivar, two confederate kings, as mentioned in part first of this history.

In the year 1266, we find that there was a peace concluded at Perth betwixt the Scots and Norwegians, at which Alexander the Third, King of Scotland, was present, with many of his nobles and clergy; and the King of Norway was represented by the High Chancellor of his kingdom, accompanied by a Norwegian baron. The articles of treaty were—that the King of Norway should resign over to the Scottish Crown all the southern division of the Hebrides, and that they should for ever after belong to the King of Scotland, together with their superiorities, rents, services, homages, and all other rights belonging to them; and also the ecclesiastical jurisdiction and patronage of the bishopric of the Isle of Man; and that all the inhabitants of these western isles, so ceded to the Crown of Scotland, should enjoy every privilege granted to them and enjoyed by them under the Kings of Norway, without being answerable for any action they had been guilty of while under the government of their former kings; and that the said inhabitants should be in future under the government of the Kings of Scotland, and be in due subjection to Scottish laws, unless they chose to reside in England, in which case they had full liberty to remove without molestation or hindrance. On the other hand, the Scottish monarch bound himself and his successors to pay, in return for this renunciation, four thousand merks sterling, within four years after the date of this treaty, together with an annual sum of one hundred merks sterling, to be paid yearly in the Church of Saint Magnus, in the Orkney Islands, by Alexander and his successors, to the King of Norway and his successors for ever.

King James IV. purchased a ship from the Laird of Laught—an estate in this vicinity—which was repaired, victualled, and equipped in the harbour of Dumbarton. This harbour and river, at an early period, became the principal naval station, and, indeed, was the only one on the west coast, for the King's ships, which were always favourite objects of his Majesty. They lay here in great safety from hurricanes and storms, and were under the protection of our formidable fortress. In July, 1494, the King made a great expedition from Dumbarton by sea to Tarbet in Kintyre, when he was numerously attended

by all the nobility and gentry of the south and west, accompanied with the then official gentlemen of the Burgh and County. About this time he caused to be built at Dumbarton a great number of large row-barges, which employed a great many men and other ship-builders, for the period of more than seven months. In May, 1495, the King again, with his ships and row-barges, well provisioned, armed, and manned, sailed from this harbour on another expedition to the Western Isles, gorgeously attended by a numerous retinue of nobles and barons. The burgh treasurer's accounts, at this date, bear a considerable item of expense, occasioned by this Royal naval western tour among the islands of the Gael.

Pitscottie the historian gives the dimensions of a huge vessel built by His Majesty James IV. which was in his day preserved at Tullibarden. The author says "she was planted in hawthorn, the length and breadth by the wright who helped to mak her." She was two hundred and forty feet long, and thirty-six feet within the sides, and the sides were ten feet thick. In building her, all the oak wood of Fifeshire, except Falkland, was expended on her, besides what was brought from Norway; and upwards of a year was employed, by Scottish and foreign carpenters, in the construction of her, even although the King himself superintended and anxiously urged on the work personally. Her guns were only thirty-two; but she had an immense number of small artillery, cross bows, serpents, falcons, hagbuts, &c. The mariners were three hundred, her gunners one hundred and twenty, and, with others, her whole complement amounted to about one thousand men. When the King got her fully equipped and ready for sea, he then thought justly that she was the wonder of the world.

John, Duke of Albany, arrived in the year 1515 from France, and landed at the harbour of Dumbarton, accompanied by a numerous French fleet. His splendid reception on his entering our romantic Fortress was greeted by the whole inhabitants and nobility of the Town and surrounding district, and even by the unusual congratulation of the people of Scotland. At a full meeting of the Scottish Parliament, he was thereafter unanimously appointed Regent of the kingdom, immediately after the demise of James IV.

In the year 1540, James the Fifth undertook an expedition truly worthy of a patriotic Sovereign; making, with a strong

fleet and a sufficient body of troops, a grand circumnavigation of the whole realm of Scotland, acquainting himself with the various islands, harbours, capes, currents, and tides. In the Hebrides, he took hostages from the most turbulent chiefs for the quiet behaviour of their respective followers and clans, who bore in general the designations which they have at this day—such as the M'Donalds, M'Leods, M'Leans, M'Kenzie, M'Farlanes, and others. In this expedition His Majesty showed to the most remote part of his dominions the presence of their Sovereign in a dignified position, and was both able and willing to support the honour of the crown, and the due administration of justice; while at the same time he struck a salutary terror into the heads of those Clans who were unwilling to acknowledge any higher authority than their own feudal laws. James sailed from Leith, on this praiseworthy expedition, about the 22d of May, and landed at the harbour of Dumbarton about the end of July, 1540; after a voyage which, in that early state of navigation, was not without its dangers and perils.

During the great civil commotions which took place in Scotland in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, this Town was often the theatre of those warlike disturbances which spread terror over a whole community. The Earl of Lennox, whose power and influence in Scotland, and especially throughout the western district, was very extensive—in contending for the Regency in 1544, having retired from the capital of the kingdom to this Burgh and castle—raised a very large army of Lennox-men—and received from the King of France a gift of 30,000 crowns, to increase his military force against the Earl of Hamilton, who was then Regent.

In the year 1548, Mary, the young Queen, was, amidst these troublous times, carried to Dumbarton fortress for greater security; and she was in a short time thereafter, along with a goodly number of her Scottish Nobles, embarked at this harbour to France for her education, to be conducted under the auspices of the French court. Three or four years after her return from the gaudy splendours of the French capital she visited this fortress, when making a popular Royal tour into Argyleshire; and she frequently afterwards visited this burgh, accompanied by very splendid retinues. After her intrepid escape from Lochleven Castle, and immediately previous to the

battle of Langside, Lords Seaton, Niddry, Douglas, and others, with the Queen's Generals, intended to secure her in the Castle of Dumbarton, it being a place of great strength, which the Regent Murray had not been able at this time to wrest out of the hands of Lord Fleming, who was then governor. In a few days thereafter, attended by a few select friends, she was escorted to the vicinity of Langside; and there viewed, from the Castle of Cathcart, or an eminence adjacent, the contending armies, with all the feelings of a noble heroine, till defeat came and clouded her beautiful countenance.

Upon the 18th of January, 1580, the Earl of Morton, who was confined in the Castle of Edinburgh for being accessory to the conspiracy and murder of Henry Lord Darnley, for greater security was conveyed to the fortress of Dumbarton, under the escort of the Earl of Glencairn, Lord Robert Stewart, and the Lairds of Bargeny, Lochinvar, &c. with two hundred hackbuts, where he lay till the 27th of May following. He was then transported back to Edinburgh, tried, condemned, and beheaded.

There was a great plague in the west of Scotland in the year 1606. One Scottish historian says, that it was very fatal in the burgh of Dumbarton; and in the town of Ayr the dead could scarcely be got buried, they were so numerous.

Dumbarton gave the title of Earl, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, to a branch of the noble house of Douglas. Lord George Douglas, third son of William, first Marquis of Douglas, was, in his early years, one of the pages of honour to Louis XIV. King of France. He was, in the year 1673, called over to Britain by Charles II. who thereafter created him Earl of Dumbarton in 1675. George his son, the second Earl of Douglas, had the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel in the British army granted him during the Rebellion of 1715. From this noble military commander has been suggested the lines in the old Scottish tune or song, beginning with the words—"Dumbarton's drums beat bonnie, O." In his latter days he retired again to France, where he died without issue, and the title of Earl of Dumbarton henceforth became entirely extinct.

Under the reign of Charles I. in the year 1639, Dumbarton Castle was taken, in consequence of a very cunning stratagem, by the Covenanters. It was, at the above period, well garrisoned and amply supplied every way with stores and provisions,

and the then governor was very staunch to the king's party. It would appear that he was not deeply versed in some of the cunning tactics of the Covenanters, for being invited, or rather having entered, with a large party of the garrison, without any suspicion, the parish Church on a Fast-day, the solemn services of the sanctuary were scarcely commenced when the Provost of the town, along with Campbell of Ardencaple, supported by a strong military force, suddenly entered, surprised, and took them all prisoners in the Church, and then the few who had remained in the fortress speedily surrendered to the Covenanters at the very first summons. The fortress remained in the hands of the captors for only a few months, and was afterwards retaken by the royal forces; but again, on the 20th of August following, the Castle capitulated to the Covenanters; a very grievous scurvy had broken out amongst the soldiers at that time, otherwise the garrison, being almost impregnable and in a complete state of defence, well provisioned and fully stored, was almost unassailable. (See Baillie and Aikman's History of Scotland.) A few Irish prisoners, captured at the battle of Philiphaugh in 1645, who were imprisoned in Dumbarton Castle, were ordered by the Parliament "to be executed without any assize or process," conformed to the mutual treaty of both kingdoms, as then passed in acts of Parliament. They were beheaded within the walls of the castle by an instrument called the "Scottish Maiden," somewhat similar to the French guillotine, the rude remains of which lay on the east top of the castle till within these few years. Shortly after this the Earl of Glencairn, a very staunch Covenanter, ordered two hundred of his best horsemen or dragoons, under the command of Sir George Maxwell of Newark, to cross a ford in the river Leven, about three or four miles above the town, to attack a party of Cromwell the Protector's cavalry, which were at that time quartered in Dumbarton. They quickly forded the river at Bonhill, and, setting off at full gallop, entered the Burgh at one o'clock in the day, while the enemy were all quietly seated at dinner. They discomfited and dispersed the whole party, killing about thirty, and making a good many prisoners, besides capturing all the horses and two hundred bolls of corn. The officers were afterwards allowed their horses and their arms, and to wear their swords. The common soldiers were also allowed their horses, and their arms were strictly required to be de-

livered up, for which they were to be allowed full value by their conquerors. The value was to be fixed by skilled persons mutually chosen—two gentlemen by the Earl of Glencairn, commander of the Covenanters' forces, and two by General Monk, commander of the Protector's army. These stipulated conditions were conscientiously and honourably fulfilled and arranged by the valuator on the green in front of the castle, where two tables were placed, at which the soldiers delivered up their arms, and received their value in sterling money, along with their passes. (See Aikman's History, Vol. iv. p. 454.)

Robert Ker of Kersland, one of the persecuted Covenanters, a gentleman of landed estate in Lanarkshire, who was zealously attached to the principles of the Reformation, and who lost his estate and liberty in consequence of his union to that cause, was a close prisoner, for the space of eighteen months, in this fortress, viz. from 1668 to 1670; he was removed to Stirling Castle for some years, and afterwards he was removed a second time to the dungeon of Dumbarton Castle. It would appear that several members of his family were permitted to join him in these different places of imprisonment. There is the draft of a petition yet extant, addressed by him, while he was a prisoner in this fortress, to the Privy Council of Scotland, in which he says—"In the very coldest of this season, and in a time when some of my family were wrestling under heavy and sad sickness, others enduring pains of the stone and gravel, so very excessive as cannot be expressed; and my thus pained children were extruded out of the castle, with all the rest, except one daughter, who, with myself and tender wife and one servant, were all thrust up to another damp room, that is well known to be intolerable for smoke and cold."

We will often have the same veneration for an aged person who suffers adversity and persecution with patience, as for a demolished temple, the very ruins of which are revered and adored. The Covenanters were often expelled from their homes—they were driven to hide in dens and in caves of the earth—to wander naked and starving in the remote parts of the country, skulking in the woods, or among mosses, or on the hills, without any certain dwelling-place—they were exposed to every extremity of climate; in the depth of winter, as well as in the heat of summer, they made the heath their bed and the cold rock their pillow, and their only covering was the wide canopy

of heaven. Debarred from the common charities of life, their presence was deemed pestilential, and their nearest relations dared not exchange an expression of kindness with them but at the peril of their lives—they were hunted by the soldiers like partridges on the mountains, and pursued like the wild beasts of the forest, and shot often without inquiry and without account—they were traced by the bloody scent of the sleugh-hound, and, whenever they made their appearance, the hue and cry was raised against them—they were surrounded with spies, apostate renegades, who shared the rewards, or gratified their cruel resentment by the apprehension, captivity, or death of the suffering outcast wanderers. The number of prisoners were often so great that the government could not bring them all to trial ; and such of them as escaped execution, were transported or sold as slaves, to people the desolate barbarous colonies of a foreign land.

During the Regency of the Earl of Lennox, when Queen Mary was a captive exile in England, and Scotland in a ferment of civil war, a very dexterous manœuvre was executed by an officer of the Regent's on the garrison of Dumbarton Castle, which the Queen's friends boldly held possession of till this period.

Captain Crawford of Jordanhill, a gallant and enterprising officer, performed a service of great importance to the Regent, in taking the Castle by surprise. This was the only fortified place in the kingdom, of which the Queen, by her forces, had kept almost constant possession ever since the commencement of the civil wars. Its situation, on the top of a high and almost inaccessible rock, which rises in the middle of a plain, rendered it extremely strong, and, in the general opinion of that age, *impregnable*. Its command of the river Clyde was of great moment, and was esteemed the most proper place in the kingdom for landing any foreign troops which might come from France to Mary's aid. The strength and position of the place also rendered the governor, Lord Fleming, more secure than he ought to have been, considering its great importance as a place of defence.

A soldier who had served in the garrison, and had been disgusted by some ill usage, proposed the scheme to the Regent, endeavouring to demonstrate that it was practicable to take the fort, and offered himself to go the foremost man in the

daring enterprise. It was judged most prudent to risk any danger for so great a prize. Scaling ladders and whatsoever else was necessary were prepared with the utmost secrecy and dispatch. All the roads and avenues to the Castle were guarded, so that no intelligence of the design might reach the governor. Towards the evening Crawford marched from Glasgow with a small but determined band. By midnight they arrived at the bottom of the rock. The moon was set, and the sky, which had hitherto been extremely clear, was covered with a thick fog. It was the north-eastern side, where the rock was highest, that the assailants made their attempt, because at that place there were supposed to be fewer sentinels, and there they hoped to find them least on their guard. The first ladder was scarcely fixed, when the weight and eagerness of those who mounted it brought it to the ground. None of the assailants, however, were hurt by the fall, nor any of the garrison alarmed by the noise. Their guide, with Captain Crawford, scrambled again up the rock and fastened the foot of the ladder to the roots of a tree which grew in a cleft. This place they all reached with the utmost difficulty, but were still at a great distance from the foot of the wall. Their ladders were made fast a second time, but in the middle of the ascent they met with an unforeseen difficulty. One of their intrepid companions was seized suddenly with what was supposed an epileptic fit, and clung, seemingly without life, to the ladder. All were now at a stand. It was impossible to pass him. To tumble him down headlong would be cruel, and might alarm the garrison. But Crawford's presence of mind did not forsake him in this emergency. He ordered the soldier to be bound fast to the ladder, that he might not fall when the fit was over; and, turning the other side of the ladder, they mounted with ease over his belly. Day now began to dawn in the east, and there still remained a high wall to scale; but, after surmounting so many greater difficulties, this was soon accomplished. A sentry of the garrison, and the first man who appeared on the parapet wall, had scarcely time to give the alarm when they entered; he was knocked on the head and killed. The officers and soldiers of the garrison ran out almost naked, unarmed, and more anxious for their own safety than defending the Fort. The bold assailants rushed forward with repeated shouts, and with the utmost fury took

possession of the magazine, seized the cannon, and turned them against their enemies; and, shortly afterwards, the garrison capitulated. Lord Fleming the governor hastily got into a small boat, and escaped alone into Argyleshire. Captain Crawford, to reward his noble valour and good conduct in this affair, was made governor of the Castle; and, as he did not lose a single man in this singular enterprise, so he enjoyed his success with unmixed pleasure. Lady Fleming, Verax, a French ambassador, and Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrew's, were the only prisoners of the greatest distinction.

The following original Inventory is extracted from Bannatyne's Journal, in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. It contains the number of cannons, bullets, powder, provisions, &c. captured in the fortress at the time.

"Ane letter of Thomas Crawford, written to John Knox, at the Laird of Braid's request, containeing the inventare of the munitione within the Castell of Dumbartane, the tyme of his entrie therto.

"*Item*, In the first, ane gross culvering, mouted for the wallis and nocht for the feilds, with 24 bullats for her. *Item*, two batters, mouted for the wallis and not for the feilds, with sufficient number of bullats for thame. *Item*, two myons, ane mouted for the wallis, and the uther unmouted, eather for wallis or feilds, with sufficient number of bullats for thame two. *Item*, two bartenyie falcons, mouted for the wallis and nocht for the feilds, with sufficient number of bullats for thame. *Item*, ane quarter falcone, mouted for the wallis and not for the feilds, with sufficient number of bullats for hir. *Item*, thrie hacquebuts found whole, and ane broken. *Item*, ane duble bars of irne. *Item*, ane single bars. *Item*, thrittie barralls of grit cannon poulder. *Item*, eight barralls of hacquebut of fund (fine) poulder. *Item*, aughteen callevs; of thea at my Lord's command ane geiven to Harry Wedderburne, ane uther to George Dundass—rests therof 16. *Item*, of speirs, headit an unheadit, 60. *Item*, of culvering poulder, thrie barralls. *Item*, of victuallis left in the place at our entrie theirto, efter my Lord's depairting: *Imprimis*, of wyne, 20 tunnis,—*Item*, of meill, 12 chalders,—*Item*, of wheat, 10 bollis,—*Item*, of malt, 8 bollis; of bisquet bread, 11 hole hogheids,—*Item*, of balcon, 4 hole pucheonis."

Although not specified in the above Inventory, one of the

most singular warlike implements was found in this fortress at an early period. I allude to the "Galloway Flail." The Galloway flail is mentioned by several Scottish historians as being a most powerful implement of ancient warfare, and at one time found amongst the rude armoury of Dumbarton fortress. In an ancient Gallowvedian ballad, entitled "The Battle of Craignelder," published a few years ago by a Captain Denniston, and in one of the notes appended to that publication, the author makes the following remarks:—"The Galloway flail must have been a very powerful weapon when wielded by a muscular arm; it is described, if we mistake not, by 'Harry the Scottish Minstrel,' and seems to have been indigenous to the country, as several old writers mention it by that name. We had the fortune to see one reported to have been taken out of the armoury of Dumbarton Castle; it was in a museum, collected by the ingenious Mr. Burrell of Edinburgh, about eighty-five years ago. In so far as our recollection is to be depended on, its *staff* might have been about five feet in length, the *soopie* about three feet and a half or four feet, and joined with iron rings, either in one or two pieces, so that it doubled with resistless force around any interposing object." The lines of the ballad, to which this note is appended by the author, are the following:—

"With vengeful speed fierce Douglas flew,
Where ranged the swinging flail-men."

Another author, when speaking of this instrument, says, "amongst other ancient warlike implements may be mentioned the Galloway flail. What is termed the hand-staff of this weapon was made of the tough and durable ash-wood, and about five feet in length; the soopie, or that part which strikes the barn floor, was formed of iron, and was about three feet long, and had *three* joints. This flail was, doubtless, intended for warlike purposes by the man who carried it, and must have been a very formidable weapon when wielded by a strong muscular arm. By means of the joints in its iron soopie, it was, when vigorously applied, fitted like a thong to enfold the body of a man, and in this way was calculated to crush the ribs after the manner of a boa constrictor. No swordsman could cope with an individual armed with this weapon. It

could keep any aggressor at a distance. One stroke of it could shiver a sword and arm to pieces, and leave the person of the defenceless antagonist to be subjected to the same treatment as a sheaf of corn on the barn-floor."

PART V.

General Description of Dumbarton Castle—It became a Royal Fortress in 1238—The Armoury—The Magazine—the Lover's Leap—Interesting Legendary Tale regarding it—General Symeon, a French Prisoner—Mr. John Cameron, a leather merchant in Greenock, and Radical Reformer, immured in the Dungeon of the Fortress in 1819—Nocturnal Invasion of the Radical Village of Duntocher by the Dumbarton Volunteers—They Return to the Royal Burgh with Trophies of their Victory—Ancient manner of conducting Funeral Ceremonies in the Burgh.

THE CASTLE.—This strong natural fortress has been occupied with operations of a warlike nature throughout the different bygone ages, and through every succeeding dynasty, during more than eighteen centuries. It is the most ancient stronghold in the west of Scotland of which any record is preserved. In very remote times, on this craggy and very singular eminence, the earliest savages and semi-barbarians who first roved over the western wilds of Scotland established their rude defences. The Atticotti tribe secured it firmly, for a long period, as the grand seat of their desultory government. Toward the happy dawn of a more refined age, this Castle made a conspicuous figure during the troublous period of the Scottish succession, and the numerous wars with England, from the twelfth till the end of the sixteenth century. It is justly supposed to be the theatre of the early wars described by Ossian, in his tragical but beautiful poem, entitled "Carthon," as formerly alluded to in this concise treatise. From an early period till the year 1238, this stronghold was the principal residence of the ancient family of Lennox, when it afterwards became a Royal fortress. The adjoining lands attached to this ancient fortress were relinquished by government to the Marquis of Montrose in the year 1704—the Crown reserving to itself the entire Rock and fortifications. Throughout the reigns, and

during the deadly and sanguinary conflicts of the heroic Bruce and Wallace with the English armies, who asserted at the points of their swords the noble independence of the Scottish nation, this Rock was then the grand arena of their bloody contests. There still remain many evidences of this very singular fortress being the fatal scene of their fearful strife, although very few traces of it are found inscribed on the page of history. The large two-handed sword of the latter warrior, and the remains of the "Scottish Maiden," with other rude relicts of former days, are still exhibited to visitors who frequent this romantic fort. Dumbarton Castle stands about an English mile south-east of the burgh, and is surrounded on the south by the river Clyde, and on the west and north by the river Leven. It is situated on a flat and level plain, forming a beautiful peninsula at the confluence of these two rivers. The general view of it from the Town is decidedly the most superior, forming at once an object both striking and singular to the eye of a stranger. Geologists have often closely examined this Rock, and found it of a basaltic nature—pronounced it a kind of volcanic irruption, and to have arisen from the centre of the earth, in all probability by some internal convulsions of nature, in the first ages of the world. In some places it rises almost perpendicular from the level of the plain to the height of 350 to 400 feet, and naturally divides itself into two equal parts—the eastern and the western rock. It is from 1800 to 2000 paces round the base, or little more than an English mile in circumference, and at flood tide is nearly three-fourths surrounded with water. All strangers, who daily visit it, generally allow that it is one of the most wonderful, picturesque, and extraordinary formations of the Great Creator in Europe, perhaps in the known world. Several huge pieces of rock have, at an early period, by some convulsions of nature, fallen from the northern side of the fortress, of from 50 to 1000 tons weight. Tradition says, that about 260 years ago the largest piece of rock, called the "Washing Stone," ascertained to be by actual measurement 3166 tons, parted from its parent rock, and fell on a woman who was milking a cow on the plains below. Whether there be any truth in this we cannot tell, but under its projecting canopy a large excavation has been made, at an early period, capable of protecting twenty to thirty men from the angry fury of the winter's blast; which circum-

stance certainly does tend to impart some shadow of truth to the traditionary story. With other gentlemen of the Town and County, we are extremely sorry to observe that the Government has allowed a great many of these huge blocks, which through the lapse of ages have fallen from their parent rock, to be blasted and broken up. This is the more to be regretted, as these fallen fragments lying around its base added a beauty and grandeur to the fortress, of which it is now untastefully shorn.

The western compartment of the rock is the most elevated of the two, access to which is had by a long flight of narrow steps, leading from the Barrack Master's house upwards, towards the top, and substantially guarded by an iron railing on either hand. On the summit of this division stands the chief signal post, or main flag-staff, supposed to be about sixty feet high, and there is also a low circular building from three to four feet high, which was probably an ancient Roman Pharos or Beacon, for the purpose of displaying fire-signals, if any enemy was in the neighbourhood, in these remote ages. Report says that the ancient main entrance to the Castle was from the *north* side, between the natural chasm of the two rocks; which entrance was shut up about two hundred and fifty years ago, and a commodious barracks erected thereon, fronting the Burgh. The Barracks, being a house of three stories, are capable of containing about two hundred men in any case of emergency. Round the whole circuit of the walls are planted twenty-five heavy pieces of cannon, of different calibre, and mounted on carriages, and every way ready for action. Immediately in front of the barracks, and under the guns and pavement, is the famed Dungeon, prison, or black-hole, where, in the earlier history of the Castle, state and other prisoners were confined at, and previous to the Reformation. The modern entrance is now from the south side. The spacious area within the entrance gate is partly occupied with very large dismantled pieces of cannon, and numerous piles of cannon shot. On entering the second gateway, and ascending a flight of steps, the Governor's house, of three stories, presents itself, surrounded with formidable pieces of mounted cannon, pointing their warlike muzzles to the main gateway, ready to repel the bold daring of any invading foe. This is called "King George's Battery." The following are the modern names of the other batteries in

the Castle :—Prince of Wales' Battery, Duke of Argyle's Battery, Duke of York's Battery, the Spanish Battery, the Bower Battery, and the One-Gun Battery. In times of war, numerous sentries are stationed along the elevated walls, and at the outer and inner gates of the fortress, to prevent surprise by day or escalade by night. No person is allowed to enter and inspect the garrison unless accompanied by a soldier, to whom a small gratuity is generally given, for his own benefit or for some charitable purpose. The guard on duty generally calls a man from the guard-house, situated near the Governor's house, to conduct strangers up stairs, along the walls, and through the varied departments of the fortress. The ascent to the barracks is by an easy stone stair, *laid on* or through the natural and partly artificial fissure in the rock which separates the eastern from the western division. On the top of the eastern division of the fortress stands an extensive magazine or bomb-proof powder-house, encompassed by high walls : a lightning-rod, from the summit of the building, conducts the electric fluid into the bottom of a deep well adjacent : at present it contains from five to six hundred barrels of gunpowder. Adjacent to the magazine are ammunition stores, and an elevated stone watch-tower built on the wall, called "Wallace's Tower." To the north and west of this, the walls are all planted with heavy pieces of cannon. Three 24-pound carronades, from this elevation, point their muzzles to the very centre of our Burgh ; and what is very singular, and of immense value to the Castle, there is a large spring of pure water at the very top, which supplies several tanks and wells throughout the fortress. Adjoining the barracks there is a strong building of two stories, in which there is a suit of rooms, with iron-stanchioned windows. In these apartments General Symeon was confined, an intrepid French officer under Buonaparte, taken prisoner by the British, under Wellington, at Waterloo. He was kept a close prisoner in the Castle for a considerable period. He was vigilantly guarded by two soldiers with loaded arms and fixed bayonets, from the place of his confinement daily to the summit of the eastern rock, and his patrol was circumscribed to the circuit of the magazine. The British Government allowed him this recreation twice a-day—from ten to twelve A.M. and from four to six P.M. The regular undeviating track of the General's meridian and evening walks, being at first covered

with soft and verdant grass, became at length a beaten pathway, a *yard* beyond which he dared not venture, by reason of the strict military orders given his accompanying guards. During the period of his long confinement, and his circumscribed march on the eastern rock, the "Scottish Maiden," an ancient instrument for beheading traitors, and somewhat similar to the French guillotine, lay dismantled at his feet.

The Armoury, situated near the barracks, contains at present from 1500 to 2000 stand of arms, arranged in neat order along the floors of a spacious hall. There are also about 200 swords and a few pistols, and other antique implements of ancient warfare, with some rude pikes seized at Duntocher during the modern Radical insurrection, which took place in the west of Scotland in the year 1819, and to which we shall have occasion shortly to refer. We have already referred to the magazine; some weeks ago curiosity led us to ask permission to visit its interior, which we did, accompanied by another gentleman and a lady: having entered into what may be called the lobby or vestibule, we were ordered to leave our walking-sticks and umbrellas outside, and to take off our shoes and adorn our feet with old carpet ones lying around us, which we did. We could not but say that we felt a kind of tremor come over us. The lady appeared, however, to possess a good deal of nerve on the occasion, till the Barrack-master told us that we were surrounded with as much powder, shells, grape-shot, rockets, &c. as would blow up almost all the capital cities in Europe, if properly placed. The lady then, we saw, gave an instinctive shrug to her shoulders and silently went out: afterwards she was gently twitted for want of fortitude. She, however, justly replied, that she believed there would be no safety within three or four miles of such an explosion, did it take place. Besides rockets, hand-grenades, grape-shot, canister-shot, and bomb-shells in thousands, there are also 10,000 to 12,000 bullets, or round shot, cased up in piles, in different places of the fortress.

We stood astounded to perceive that the vigilance of the British government had crowded our Castle so plentifully with such terrific and fearful munitions of war; insomuch, as we were told, that all the steamers that come into the firth of Clyde could be supplied and equipped with guns, stores, and other provisions, within two or three days' notice.

On the very summit of the eastern compartment of the Cas-

tle, and rather to the east of the magazine, stands an ancient rude wall or building covered with ivy, overlooking a tremendous precipice towards the main gateway below. This precipice is supposed to be about four hundred feet high, a glance over which appals the very stoutest heart. This fearful perpendicular has sustained, through the course of two or three centuries past, the very attractive appellation of the "*Lover's Leap*," from the following traditionary and romantic circumstances:—

In an early period of Scottish history, when a large detachment of English soldiers with their officers were stationed in this fortress, the sprightly and gallant Captain of the regiment fell in love with the young, very beautiful, and only daughter of the Governor of the Castle. The personal appearance of her lover was tall and comely—his bearing bold, dignified, and heroic, and altogether such as became a soldier. The gallant figure of her youthful admirer, and the very showy splendour of his gawdy military attire, combined with other attractions in charming the heart, the eye, and the affections of the much-loved object of his esteem. Although young, he was more than once or twice on the battle-field, in these early days of deep commotion and gory warfare. His manners were highly polished and refined; he was affable, generous, and kind; and, in matters of pure affection and love, he would have nobly braved the cannon's mouth. His tender attachment to the beloved object of his choice was strong, ardent, and unfaltering; and his attentions to her were at once unremitting, unceasing, and unalterable. She, the beloved object of his affections, was in reality one of beauty's children. Her person and figure were extremely handsome and pretty. Nature—or, I should rather say, the great Author of nature—formed her in his best mould, and led her forth to be generally, even universally admired. She was young, gay, and lively, and just emerging from her teens. Her soft rolling eyes were like the stars of the morning, and her white heaving bosom like the foam on the ocean wave. Her hair was dark as the raven's wing, and gently hung in flowing ringlets around her snowy neck, forming the beautiful side-drapery of her lovely countenance. As the poet most appropriately remarks,

"Her form was fresher than the morning rose, when the dew
wets its leaves;

Unstained and pure, as is the lily or the mountain snow;
Thoughtless of beauty, she was beauty's self."

Her affection to her lover was strong, for she loved him with the disinterested fervour of a woman's first and early love. Such were the loving pair. Their attachment was reciprocal. Her's was pure, ardent, and unsullied, and even surpassed the love of women, as the following legendary narrative will testify.

Angelina—for that was the name of the governor's daughter—Angelina repeatedly stole from under her father's roof to meet her gallant lover in some retired and sequestered part of the ancient fortress, where they would often innocently indulge in all the soft and delightful, but airy reveries of lovers. Their private meeting-place was often some romantic and elevated pinnacle of the rock, where they would command the most extensive prospect. At one time they would ascend and seat themselves on the carriages of the great guns surmounting the eastern division of the rock, where they beheld afar the lofty Ben-Lomond lifting his stately head to the clouds, with his spacious lake and islands spread out at his feet. The beautiful river and vale of Leven also in the distance, with the ancient burgh and neighbouring landscape in the foreground, would in their eyes form a kind of fairy-land scene. In the calm summer evenings they would often ascend the steep stair to the "galleries" of the rock, where the flag-staff stands, and there, happily seated on the rude Roman circle or pharos, they would unitedly view from this altitude the slowly retiring king of day setting gorgeously in the west, far beyond the sterile and rugged mountains of Argyleshire. They beheld also for many a long mile the majestic windings of the River Clyde, on which numerous engagements took place in bygone years, between the petty princes of Argyle and the ancient kings of the Britons, in their rude "currachs." Thus they would often spend their fleeting evenings, till the drum would beat the garrison to rest, or a female servant, by order of her father, sought among the clefts of the rock, or amongst the great guns of the fortress, for the long absent Angelina. The high-minded Governor, it would appear, was always sternly opposed to the attentions and overtures of the gallant young Captain, for reasons which always remained unknown, and he

therefore sternly forbade his daughter to keep company with him; and, moreover, ordered Angelina never to cross the threshold of the house or go abroad, unless accompanied by her waiting-maid. She, notwithstanding, still stole now and then from under the parental eye, despite all the vigilance used to wean her youthful affections from her much-loved companion. However, it has been often observed that genuine love, when restrained, glows even more intensely than when allowed to have an honourable vent. Such was the case with Angelina. She continually thought on the attractive object of her long-cherished affections by night and by day. Frequently would she steal to the lattice of her window, and rapturously behold the comely person of her lover, as he every morning and evening directed the regiment through their several evolutions in front of the governor's house. In return, he as often stole a private glance of her lovely countenance as it beamed through the window, and would often heave a deep sigh, which the soft southern breeze could scarcely convey to the lattice, far less to the ear of his greatly-loved Angelina. The stern father, however, still remained inflexible: he put even closer restraints on his much-loved and half-idolised daughter. Time, nevertheless, quickly rolled on, and brought about an event at once singular and even partly miraculous in the history of lovers.

The gallant officer's regiment, by orders of the commander-in-chief, got the route to leave the fortress for another part of the kingdom, to suppress the marauding incursions of a rude, wild, and numerous banditti on the borders of Scotland. On the day appointed, preparations were early made for leaving the Castle, and all was hurry and bustle at the hour of dawn, even before the morning's sun had tinged with his refreshing beams the summits of Dumbuck, the Long Craig, and the tops of the other eastern adjacent mountains. Angelina's female attendant, when passing out at an early hour, overheard a soldier say that the regiment was to march in two hours thereafter.

These doleful tidings she privately communicated to Angelina, the report of which very much disconcerted her; and her feelings, her thoughts, and her determination were rapidly fixed, but she kept them sacredly hid in the repository of her own breast.

Her waiting-maid, who had all along watched with much interest and curiosity the growing affections of Angelina, seemed greatly struck with the apparent composure in which she received the first intelligence of her lover's march. She said but little, and frequently paced her own sitting room in the very deepest thought and reverie. She closely observed from the window, with very deep emotion, the regiment at the outer gate of the Castle forming their ranks and making preparations for marching. She also beheld, with palpitating breast, that more than half idolised form taking his position at the head of the ranks, and almost ready to issue the command of—march.

Her father, the meanwhile, had watched with all the tender solicitude of a parent the heaving emotions of his beloved child at this momentous crisis. But there was a stillness and taciturnity about Angelina's whole deportment, which, in a great measure, betrayed all her inward feelings to her father. To escape from the house by the front door to the arms of her parting lover was impossible, from the extreme vigilance of the family, and also from the numerous sentries who were then posted at the several gates. With a kind of apparent solemnity she retired to her own private room, but she had no sooner entered it, than she unobservedly and gently glided out of the back entrance which faces the rock, ascended the long flight of steps that leads upwards through the chasm of the fortress to the armoury and barracks, and thence bounded like a young roe up the eastern compartment of the rock, past the magazine, and arriving at the old ivy-bound wall which there rudely adorns its summit, she then, calmly glancing her dark rolling eyes over the giddy precipice, and seeing her lover slowly marching at the head of his regiment from the Castle gates, bounded over, and in three seconds of time alighted, as an angel descending from heaven, at her Lover's feet, with, it is said, but trifling injury. The gallant Captain for a brief moment stood almost petrified. He flew, lifted her up, clasped her in his arms, and pressed her to his bosom. A vehicle with a few cordials and emollients were all speedily procured from the town for the relief of the daring and intrepid Angelina, and she got so far recovered from the effects of her elevated leap, that an hour scarcely elapsed till her and her lover appeared before the altar in the ancient Church, erected

in the neighbouring Burgh by the munificence of the Duchess of Lennox; and there they were made "one" at the sacred shrine, ere the old Governor was aware that his beloved and only child had thus so miraculously descended and escaped from the fortress.

Closely connected with the history of the Castle, is an incident which took place in modern times, and which many of my readers may recollect; I refer at present to what was called the Radical Rebellion of 1819, and the imprisonment of a gentleman from Greenock, implicated with being accessory to that infatuated rising. At this period (1819) the west of Scotland seemed to be in a convulsed state of political fermentation. Many respectable gentlemen and merchants, who were greatly imbued with reforming principles, were torn from their business, their homes, and their families, by the iron rule of those days, and immured in prisons, in dungeons, and in castles. The writer of these pages remembers well the case of a merchant of Greenock, viz. Mr. John Cameron, currier and leather-merchant, who was suspected of being a chief leader of the Radicals and Reformers in that sea-port Town. He was a man of the strictest integrity and honour as a merchant and a gentleman; but he had unfortunately incurred the suspicion of the civic authorities of that town, was apprehended, torn from his numerous family, his home, and his business; and the jail of Greenock being in their opinion far too insecure, he was therefore conveyed, under a strong military guard of dragoons, to the dungeons of Dumbarton Castle, as a traitor to his king and country. No access could be had to him, either by his wife, or any other member of his family, or by any of his acquaintances or friends. No communication whatever was allowed to pass the threshold of the Castle gates. Every military vigilance was kept over him; even his very food, sent into the fortress, was very strictly searched, in case it should have contained treason or sedition. In the course of a few weeks after his imprisonment, the editor of the Greenock Advertiser newspaper, a gentleman of high political honour, and an independent spirited writer, dared to pen a paragraph in his paper, containing a short eulogium on Mr. Cameron's character, as an upright merchant and an honourable citizen. As no communication could by any possibility reach him through common means, his loving wife in her own mind devised the very ingenious

plan of cutting out the paragraph from the paper, and then inclosed the valuable slip between two half-slices of buttered bread prepared for his breakfast, which, when the husband opened and read in his dungeon, proved to him as a kind of life from the dead. He was thereafter liberated without any trial, having undergone a considerable period of rigorous confinement.

Just at this Radical crisis (which certainly was an era of alarming commotion and agitation) there occurred another incident in our local history deserving a place here. The fearful intelligence was everywhere spread that the Radicals were manufacturing great quantities of arms and pikes at the village of Duntocher, seven miles from the burgh—were mustering there in hundreds and thousands—and were contemplating the taking of Dumbarton Castle. The Dumbarton Volunteers were therefore, by the authorities, immediately called out to arms, and assembled so early as one o'clock on an April morning. Their marching out of the burgh at that early hour, to the music of the drums and fifes, greatly alarmed the sleeping inhabitants, and quickly roused them from the balmy arms of Morpheus. A party of the Volunteers went to reinforce the Castle, and, having arrived, they were told by the invalids stationed there "that if they were come to reinforce the garrison, they must needs do garrison duty;" they were then ordered to carry on their backs a waggon of coals up the Castle stairs of 365 steps, which lay emptied at the outer gate. We need hardly remark here that our friends the Volunteers did not altogether relish this first duty in their campaign against the Radicals. A party was left to guard the roads at Dumbuck, and to reconnoitre all strangers; the remainder marched off to Duntocher, to route the Radicals mustering so numerously in that village. Previously to entering on the theatre of their anticipated bloody conflict, they were ordered to load their guns with ball cartridge, twenty rounds of which had been furnished to every man before they left the town. One of the Volunteers, in relating this circumstance to me, said very adroitly, "Man, some of us took the shakers," that is, fear and trembling came over their whole frames; and he added, "some of my companions, from their nervousness and the shakers, had actually put the balls downmost in their guns instead of the powder!" Thus prepared, with fixed bayonets

and drums and fifes, with the then County Fiscal at their head, they boldly and courageously entered Duntocher, and it was reported that the Radicals fled like hares before our loyal and gallant townsmen. The result of this campaign was the capturing of a few rude-made pikes, with two pairs of large smiths' bellows, which were carted through the burgh in triumph, at the head of the regiment, as the only trophies of their victory. This half-serious half-ludicrous affair was ever afterwards facetiously called "The Battle of the Bellows" by the Dumbartonians.

ANCIENT MANNER OF CONDUCTING FUNERAL CEREMONIES IN THE BURGH.—The following is a very brief account of the manner in which funeral obsequies were conducted in this burgh about a century or two ago. It was customary then, on the death of any friend or near relation, to send the public crier through the town, with what was called the Skellat Bell or Dead Bell, to warn the friends and acquaintances of the deceased to his funeral. The dead bell is still in the possession of the burgh, retained we suppose as a relict of antiquity. After solemnly ringing the bell, which has a very dolorous sound, the notification of the public crier generally run in nearly the following words:—"Brethren and sisters! brethren and sisters! I do you to wit! I do you to wit! that Thomas Ferguson, taylor, in the Crossvennel, died on Monday morning last, and will be buried this afternoon at five o'clock, and all his friends and acquaintances are hereby invited to attend." In these early days, and even at a later period, when the family could afford it, there were three services of bread, wine, and spirits at funerals, or what was called three rounds, one of rum, one of whisky, and one of wine. But now, in modern times, it is judged *more* genteel to give only one service of wine; and, within these few years, the teetotalers aver that it is *most* genteel to offer *no wine* at all. An aged gentleman and burgess of the town, but who is now no more, used to tell a story, that he was once invited to a funeral in the parish of Drymen about sixty years ago. The corps was to be interred in Inchcalluech, an island in Lochlomond. The funeral party was chiefly composed of Highlanders, and from first to last they had from sixteen to twenty rounds of real strong mountain dew, which certainly proved them no teetotalers. The result was, that they almost forgot to bury the corpse!!

It will be perceived, from the terms of invitation to funerals, as above given, that it was customary for females to attend in these early days ; but the kirk-session of Dumbarton put a stop to this, on account of their doleful cryings, and making great lamentations—like the “mourning women” of old—in passing along our streets. Here is the prohibition of the kirk-session of Dumbarton, extracted from the session records :—“June 20th, 1624. This said daye, becaus of the misbehavior of sertain persones, by unmannerlie crying out and shoutting in ther weipping at the burieing of thos that are neir to them, as ther husbands, children, brothers, &c. it is hereby ordanitt that thei sall not accompanie the foresaid persones neir unto them to the grave and burying-place, but sall abide at home in ther owne housis the said space, and behaive themselvs there after a Christian manner.”

In the chronicles of the Isle of Man, which are supposed to have been written by the monks of the abbey of Saint Ruffin in Man, and published by Cambden in his *Britaniarie*, it is recorded, that during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the women there never stirred abroad but with their winding sheets about them, to keep them in remembrance of their own mortality. If a woman was tried and received sentence of death, she was sewed up in a sack and thrown from a rock into the sea. In that island they had also an old custom concerning debts, which is now abolished. When the debtor died and was buried, and there remained no writings to prove the debt, the creditor came to the grave of the deceased, and laid himself all along, with his back upon the grave, with his face towards heaven, and a Bible on his breast, and in this position he solemnly protested before God that was above him, and by the contents of the Bible then lying on his breast, that the deceased, buried under him, did owe him so much money, and then the executors were bound to pay him the specified sum.

PART VI.

The Lochlomond Expedition in the Year 1715, undertaken for effectually checking the progress of the Highland Marauders, composed chiefly of the Clan Gregor, headed by the notorious Rob Roy Macgregor, in the low country ; in which expedition the Dumbartonians took a very active part—A Curious Statement of the Burgh and County's Extraordinary Expense on the Occasion—Election of a Member of Parliament for the Burgh—Brief Sketch of Exemptions on the River Clyde.

THE great Rebellion which agitated all Britain had broken out in the year 1715, by the unfortunate Earl of Mar setting up the standard of the Stewart family, which, in an ill-omened hour, proved the ruin of many honourable families both of England and Scotland. This great public event seemed to have thrown into commotion the whole western Highlands, and gave to the notorious Rob Roy, who professed to be an adherent of the exiled Stewarts, a pretext for his unlawful depredations on the neighbouring Lowlands. As the bold leader of a rude Highland clan, he was one of the most daring freebooters who ever arose among the Highland mountains. Rob Roy Macgregor Campbell, which last name he bore in consequence of the acts of Parliament abolishing his own, was the younger son of Donald Macgregor of Glengyle (said to have been a Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of James II.), by his wife, a daughter of Campbell of Glenfalloch. Rob's own designation was of Inversnaid ; but he appears to have acquired a right of some kind or other to the property of Craig Royston, a large track of rock and forest, lying on the east side of Loch Lomond, where that beautiful lake stretches into the dusky mountains of Glenfalloch. A large proportion of the clan Gregor also claimed the property of Balquhiddier and other Highland districts as having been part of the ancient possessions

of their tribe, though the harsh laws, under the severity of which they had suffered so deeply, had assigned the ownership to other families. The civil wars of the seventeenth century had accustomed these half-savage men to the use of arms, and they were peculiarly brave and fierce, from the remembrance of their own sufferings. The vicinity of a comparatively rich lowland district gave also great temptations to incursion. Many belonging to other clans, habituated to contempt of industry and to the use of arms, drew themselves towards an unprotected frontier which promised facility of plunder. There was, therefore, no difficulty in Rob Roy, descended as he was of a tribe which was widely dispersed through the country we have described, collecting any number of followers whom he might be able to keep in action and to maintain by his illegal operations. He himself appears to have been singularly adapted for the profession which he proposed to exercise. His stature was not of the tallest, but his person was uncommonly strong and compact. The greatest peculiarities of his frame were the breadth of his shoulders, and the great and almost disproportioned length of his arms—so remarkable, indeed, that it was said he could, without stooping, tie the garters of his Highland hose, which are placed about three inches below the knee. His countenance was open, manly, and stern at periods of danger, but frank and cheerful in his hours of festivity. His hair was dark red, thick and frizzled, and curled short around his face. His singular Highland dress, and bold robust appearance, evinced him a man of great muscular strength. Such was the clan, and such was their undaunted leader, against whom the Dumbartonians nobly took the field.

“On Tuesday the 11th of Oct. 1715, about six o'clock at night, there came to the key of Dumbarton, from the men-of-war that were lying in the Firth of Clyde, four pinnaces and three large boats, with four pateraroes, and about one hundred men, well hearted and well armed, under the command of Captain Charlton, Captain Field, and Captain Parker, with four lieutenants and two gunners. About two or three hours thereafter, came up to them a large boat from New Port-Glasgow, with two large screw guns, under the command of Captain Clark; all these being joined by three very large boats belonging to the burgh of Dumbarton. Upon the morrow, about nine in the morning, they all put off from the key, and by the

strength of horses were pulled the space of five miles up the river Leven, which, next to the Spey, is reckoned the most rapid river in Scotland.

“When they were got to the mouth of the loch, the Pasley-men, and as many more as the boats could conveniently stow, went on board ; and, at the same time, the Dumbarton-men, the men of Easter and Wester Kilpatrick, of Rosneath, Row, and Cardross, marched up on foot along the north-west side of the loch ; and after them, on horseback, the Honourable Master John Cample of Mamore, uncle to his Grace the Duke of Argyle, attended by a fine train of the gentlemen of the shire, viz. Archibald M’Aulay of Ardencaple, Aulay M’Aulay, his eldest son, George Naper of Kilmahew, Walter Graham of Kilmardenny, John Colquhoun of Craigton, John Stirling of Law, James Hamilton of Barns, with many others, all very richly mounted, and well armed.

“When the pennaces and boats, being once got in within the mouth of the loch, had spread their sails, and the men on the shore had ranged themselves in order, marching along for scouring the coast, they made altogether so fine an appearance as had never been seen in that place before, and might have gratified even a curious person. The men on the shore marched with the greatest order and alacrity. The pinnaces and the other boats on the waters discharging their pateraroes, and the men their small arms, made so very dreadful a noise through the multiplied and rebounding echoes of the vast mountains on both sides of the loch, that perhaps there was never a more lively remembrance of thunder.

“Against evening they got to Luss, where they came ashore and were met and joined by Sir Humphrey Colquhoun of Luss Baronet, and chief of that name, and James Grant of Pluscarden, his son-in-law, and brother-german to Brigadier Grant—followed by forty or fifty strong stately fellows, in their short hose and belted plaids, armed each of them with a well fixed gun on his shoulder—a strong handsome target, with a sharp pointed steel of above an ell in length secured into the navel of it, on his left arm—a sturdy claymore by his side, and a pistol or two, with a dirk and knife, in his belt. Here the whole company rested all night. In the meantime, many reports reached them, contrived, or at least magnified, by the Jacobites, in order to discourage them from the attempt. One

of the reports was, that M'Donald of Glengarry, who was indeed lying with his men about Strathfillan, sixteen miles from the head of the Loch, had reinforced the M'Gregors, so that they at least amounted to sixteen hundred men—whereas there were not full four hundred men on the expedition against them. That on account of the Loch being narrow at Inversnaid, where the rebels were lying, they might pepper the boats with their shot from the shore without any danger to themselves, being shaded by the rocks and woods. In a word, that this was a desperate project, and would be a throwing away of all their lives. All these fearful considerations could not, however, dishearten these brave men. They knew that the M'Gregors and the devil are to be dealt with after the same manner, and that if they be resisted they will flee away. Wherefore, on the morrow morning, being Thursday the 13th, they went on in their expedition, and, about noon, came to Inversnaid, the supposed place of extreme danger. In order to rouse these great thieves out of their dens, Captain Clark fired one of his great guns, and drove a ball through the roof of two huts on the face of the mountain, whereupon an auld wife or two came crawling out and scrambled up the face of the hill, but otherwise there was no appearance of any body of men on the mountains, only a few standing far out of reach on the craggy rocks looking down at them.

“Whereupon the Pasley-men, under the command of Captain Finlayson, assisted by Captain Scott, a half-pay officer, and of late a Lieutenant in Colonel Kerr's Regiment of Dragoons, who is indeed an officer, wise, stout, and honest; the Dumbarton-men, under the command of Baillie David Colquhoun and Baillie James Duncanson of Garshake, both magistrates of the Burgh, with several of the other companies, to the number of one hundred men in all, with the greatest intrepidity leapt on shore, got up to the top of the mountain, and there drew up in order, and stood about an hour, their drums beating all the while; but no enemy appearing, they thereupon went in quest of the boats, which the rebels had seized and carried away. They having casually alighted on some ropes, anchors, and oars, which were hid amongst the shrubs, at length they found the boats drawn up a good way on the land, all of which they hurled down into the loch: such of them as were not damaged they carried off with them, and such as were damaged

they either sunk or hewed in pieces. That same night they returned to Luss, and thence next day (without the loss or hurt of so much as one man) to Dumbarton, from whence they had set out altogether, bringing along with them the whole boats they found on their way, on either side of the loch, and also in the several creeks of the islands, and moored them all under the cannon of Dumbarton Castle; and thus, in a very short time, and with little expense, were the clan of the Macgregors *cowed*, and a way pointed out how the government may in future easily keep them in awe."

The original tract from which the previous excerpts are taken was written at Dumbarton, and printed and extensively circulated throughout the Burgh and County in the years 1715 and 1716. Its original cost then was one shilling Scots, or about one penny sterling per copy. A rare solitary copy of this interesting tract was found; it was again reprinted and published, with an appendix, in the year 1833, by Alexander Dennistoun, Esq. advocate. Only one hundred copies were thrown off, and the little volume now costs 4s. 6d. and cannot be had. In a prefatory note prefixed to this *dear* little volume, Mr. Dennistoun seems to hint that the narrative "may have proceeded from the prolific pen of Mr. John Anderson, minister of Dumbarton, who was the incumbent of this parish at that period. But, from the matter and style of the tract, taken as a whole, our own convictions are, that if it is not the production of that celebrated minister and writer, its paternity must fall on one of the two baillies of the burgh—Messrs. Colquhoun or Duncanson—both of whom bore such a noble, gallant, and conspicuous part in that hazardous enterprise, along with many others of the burgesses: indeed, the phraseology of the writer seems to import that he was a sharer in the triumph of the day. The following excerpts of letters, on this same interesting campaign, are culled from the appendix, taken from the Woodrow Correspondence, in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh:—

"1775, Dec. 10.—Yesternight, about ten, I had express from Dumbarton, to advise that on Wednesday Rob Roy with eighty men came to Drymen—proclaimed the Pretender, and rifled the gauger's house. On Thursday he crossed the loch, and came to the minister of Luss's house, who escaped; they rifled it, and then they went to Auchengaun house, where Humphrey Noble of Kipperminshock lives—took a horse and

a mare from him, and carried off his half-brother and his wife's brother, as reprisals for the four M'Gregor's now in Dumbarton prison. Afterwards they went to the town of Luss, where they took some linen and arms, &c. They were commanded by Rob Roy and M'Gregor of Marchfield. They threatened Darleith's house; but its pretty strong, and therefore the tenants run all into it. It appears that the boats were not all destroyed in the Lochlomond expedition." Initialed "A. P."

"Dec. 13.—One hundred mariners came yesterday to Dumbarton, to be joined by some of the militia there, to go in quest of Rob Roy and his banditti, who, beside the two I mentioned in my last, have also taken M'Laughland of Auchentroig and his son, in the parish of Drymen, which is all the news I remember of. A. P."

"Dec. 17.—Rob Roy has dismissed Mr. Lecky and Boyd, whom he took in the parish of Luss; but he took the former's *ready penny* and watch. He has also returned forty-eight of Auchentroig's sheep, some cows, and four horse; and he has taken him bound to present himself before Rob Roy at four days' warning. Its said that Rob Roy and his gang are all summoned to Perth. Mr. Anderson of Dumbarton preached at Stirling, on the 14th chapter of Genesis, 5th to the 20th verses. A. P."

"Dumbarton, March 23, 1716.—Upon Wednesday night last, seven of the M'Gregors, under the command of Alester Dow M'Alester, came to the Aber of Kilmaronock, and extracted two shillings sterling and a peck of meal from every cottar in that place; and would needs have a bond, bearing interest, from one Margaret Anderson, a widow, who was obliged to compound with them for half-a-crown."—*Extract from the Glasgow Courant of that date.*

Extract of a Letter from Leslie, March 28, 1716.—"I shall tell you another story in this paper, and so conclude; and its this. Some of the Highlandmen going through Kenevie, one of them went into a house a little above the town and sought some meat. The honest wife thought it was very much, he was so civil, and gave him bread and eggs. And so he rose to go off, and said, 'cood wife, tanks to you; will you puy a bonny pook?' and so he pulled out of his bosom a very beautiful gilded pocket Bible, and said, 'puy tat, cood wife.' Said the good wife, 'I have not so much money as to buy it.' Said he, 'faith, her

nainsel will sell it fery sheap; will you kive me a shilling for it. Cood wife, tat is very sheap.' Said she, 'I have not so much.' Said he, 'how muckle hafe you?' She said, 'seven shillings Scots.' Said he, 'hae, tare its; give me tat seven shillings.' So the goodwife got the book out of his hand, and gave him his money out of her purse; and indeed there was no more in it, as I suppose. So he took the money and put it up, and so he stood a little, looking to the goodwife with the book in her hand; and at last he said, 'cood wife, let her nainsel see te book.' The woman, thinking it had been only to look at it, gave it out of her hand; and so he took it and looked at it a little, and turned it over several times, saying, 'cood faith, its ower sheap; her nainsel will not sell it so sheap; faith, her nainsel will ket mair for it; her nainsel will een keep it; it is a fery ponny pook: faith, she no sell it ava;' and with that he up with it into his bosom again, and out at the door he runs with the honest woman's money and all, and so scoured off.—Your well-wisher, J. Row." Addressed to Alexander Archer, candlemaker at Hamilton.

The following is a copy of another original letter :—" Oct. 16. On the 14th current, the Earl of Mar wrote thus to the Earl of Breadalbine—"I have just now heard from Monteith that the Earls Islay and Bute were certainly in Argyleshire, and that there were two men-of-war come into the Clyde, who were sending their long-boats to retake the boats on Lochlomond which Glengyle had seized: I wish, with all my heart, this could be prevented." (See Original Letters on Rebellion, Edinburgh, 1730.) "The expedition against Lochlomond was carried on thus :—Some flat-bottomed boats were drawn up the water of Leven by horses, and the ships' crews went on board of them. And though the captain of the men at Dumbarton got a letter with a great deal of discouragement, magnifying the numbers and strength of the rebels, yet he put that in his pocket and let none see it, but marched with his men, and covered the boats on Lochlomond, till they had burnt all the rebels' boats. I hear not of any they got prisoners, but they got some Highland paids, and banished the rogues out of the loch. Oct. 17.—Mr. Finlayson is just returned from the Highland expedition, and I heard him say that they brought out of the loch thirteen boats, had broke five, and taken security of the owners of other five, to be brought to Dumbarton, but which five the owners sunk. (Initialed) A. A."

Account of the Proceedings of the Commissioners of Supply of Dumbartonshire, during the Rebellion, under the Earl of Mar and Rob Roy Macgregor, in the years 1715 and 1716 :—

“We, the Justices of the Peace, Deputy-Lieutenants, and Commissioners of Supply of the shire of Dumbarton, under subscribing, considering that the taking and securing the boats upon Lochlomond will be a great security to the whole shire against the insolence and depredations of the rebels now in arms, and that the same cannot be done without a considerable number of armed men, do hereby desire Alexander M'Aulay, collector of the supply of Dumbartonshire, to advance Walter Graham of Kilmardeny a sum not exceeding ten pounds sterling, to be disbursed by him, for defraying the expense of the said expedition. Which sum, or so much of it as shall be advanced by the said Walter Graham, on his receipt, we oblige us either to get allowed to the said Alexander M'Aulay, out of the next term's supply, or otherwise to pay the same to him. Reserving relief to us from the rest of the shire who are not subscribing to thir presents, which is subscribed at Dumbarton the 8th day of Oct. 1715 years, by

“JOHN CAMPBELL of Mamore.
ARCH. M'AULAY of Ardencaple.
ANDW. BUCHANAN of Drumhead.
ROBERT CAMPBELL of Carrick.
J. SPREUL of Milton.
GEO. NAPIER of Kilmahew.
RO. BONTIEN of Ardoch.

JOHN STIRLING of Law.
WILLIAM CAMPBELL of Succoth.
JAS. COLQUHOUN of Camstradden.
WALT. GRAHAM of Kilmardeny.
JAS. HAMILTON of Barts.
THOS. CALDER of Shirva.
JAS. DUNCANSON of Garshake.

(In dorso.)

“DUMBARTON, 17th October, 1715.

“SIR,—Please to pay, on demand, to the honourable John Campbell of Mamore, or order, the sum of two hundred and forty pounds Scots, for furnishing the Shyre with ammunition and drums, and for defraying necessary expense of expresses, and other incidental charges, for the security of the Shyre. Which sum aforesaid we hereby oblige us either to have allowed to you in the last term's cess payment, out of the said Shyre, or that the same shall be repaid to you, by, SIR, your humble servants.
(Subscribed nearly as above.)

To ALEX. MACCAULAY, Collector of Cess }
for the Shyre of Dumbartane. }

"DUMBARTON, 4th Nov. 1716.

"GENTLEMEN,—Pay to me, Alexander MacCaulay, Collector of Sess for the Shyre of Dumbarton, or my order, upon sight hereof, the sum of fourty pound sterling, advanced by me to you out of the cess of the said shyre in my hands, for paying up the county money due to the volunteers listed by you, according to his Grace the Duke of Argyle's proclamation published thereanent. Make thankful payment, and oblige, Gentlemen, your most humble servant, ALEX. MACCAULAY.

To the Commissioners of Supply and other }
Heritors of the Shyre of Dumbarton. }

"Accepted by us, the under subscribers, conjunctly and severally, day and place foresaid.

Subscribed as formerly.

"DUMBARTONE, 2d May, 1717.

"There was received from William Campbell of Succoth, of the money remitted to him by his Grace the Duke of Argyle, for relieving the shyre of the debts contracted by them in the late rebellion, compleat payment of the soume contained in the within obligatione. Therefore, I hereby discharge the hail persons within written liable therefor, and all others whom it effeirs. (Signed) ALEX. M'AULAY.

"At Dumbartone, the twelfth day of March, 1717 years, convened the Commissioners of Supply of the said Shyre.

"The preses acquainted the gentlemen present that the reason of their being convened at this time was, that it had been represented to the Duke of Argyle the extraordinary expense the shyre had been att, during the late unhappy rebellion, in retaking the boats on Lochlomond taken by the clan Gregor; by reinforcing the garrison of Dumbarton Castle, and also by raising double militia, and keeping the samen up for sixty days; all which had brought the Shyre into considerable debts, which many of the heritors grudged to pay, considering the great expenses they otherwise had been att. Whereupon his Grace promised to take the first favourable opportunity of representing to the King the great zeal and forwardness of this Shyre; and, in the meantime, did remit to William Campbell of Suc-

coth ane certain sounge for the use and behoof of the said shyre, that they might be enabled to pay the debts they had contracted without burdening themselves therewith. The commissioners appoint William Noble of Noble Farm, Thomas Whitehill of Keppoch, James Hamilton younger of Barns, and Walter Buchanan of Auchentoshen, as a committee to inspect the accounts, &c."

"Dumbartane, 1st May, 1717.—The committee appointed for revising the shyre's accompts, having particularly examined and deliberately considered the whole account of the debts of the shyre, with the instructions of each to give it as their opinion that the whole of the said debts, extending to the sum of _____ was expended in time of the late Rebellion for the support of the government and security of the shyre, for buying of drums, colours, ammunition, and bayonets; of which there is yet resting the sum of fourty-seven pounds ten shillings and eight pennies, Scots money, not paid up by the shyre, the said money received amounting to two hundred and eighty-five pounds ten shillings and four pennies, Scots money. This, together with the deficiency, was applied in payment of drums, colours, ammunition, bayonets, clerk, and despatches, and that there is still resting, for the subsistence of some subalterns, additional pay to serjeants, whole pay to drummers, the expense of the Lochlomond expedition the shyre was put to in retaking the boats from the Macgregors, also coals to the militia in Dumbarton Castle, and coal and candle to the militia guards elsewhere, expenses in sending up deserters and volunteers to the army, for intelligence from the army and the Highlands, the sum of ninety-three pounds eleven shillings and ninepence sterling. And, further, it is the opinion of the committee that the Commissioners of Supply, at their first general meeting, should recommend to William Campbell of Succoth, to whom his Grace the Duke of Argyle had remitted ane sounge of money for paying off the shyre's debts, that they might not be burdened therewith to pay the said debts according to the above written quotas; and upon his so doing, that he might give ane sufficient declairation of the shyre's debts being so extinguished, to be ane sufficient instruction to the said William Campbell to satisfy his Grace that he had payed the same.

(Signed)

"THOS. EWING.

"WALTER BUCHANAN."

“ The Burgh of Dumbarton's Extraordinary Expenses on account of the Rebellion of 1715.

“ In the Tolbooth of Dumbartane, the second day of June, 1716 years—The Magistrates and Counsil approves of the several accounts given in by the tresuerer anent the expenses disbursed be him since the 5th of June, 1715, to the deat hereof, relating to the extraordinary charges the toun was put to during the leat Rebellion, in paying of the men hyred by the burgh for the reinforceing of the Castle of Dumbarton, and the party sent out by the burgh, and for paying of the expenses of employing men by the burgh for getting intelligence from the several parts of the country, and otherwise, as is more particularly mentioned in the minutes set down by the committee appointed for revizing said accounts, which accounts being accumulat amount to the sum of £442 : 19 : 6d. Scots money.

“The Magistrates and Councell lykewise approve of the account due by them to Mrs. Calder, and spent by them at the election of the Magistrates, and other gentlemen present with them on that occasion; and at several tymes with the Deputy Leutenants and gentlemen of the Shyre when with them, anent the safety of the toun and countrey; and for wyne and other liquors furnished by her to the Magistrates, Deputy Lifenants, and uther gentlemen present with them at the several solemnities for the victories obtained by His Majesties forces over the rebels att Sherifmoor and Prestaune. Which account extends to the soume of £192 : 10 : 4d. pennies Scots.

Item.—Monga Buchanan's account, spent in his house with the half-pay Officers of Lord Mark Kerr's redgiment, and making several gentlemen Burgesses, and about uther affairs of the Burgh. Amount, £101 : 1 : 0d. Scots.

Item.—The account given in by Mistres Colquhoun, since the 20th of August to the deat hereoff, for liquors and uther provisions furnished to the party of Burgesses sent from the toun to joyne and assist those employed for retaking the boats seased by the Macgregors in Lochlomond; and spent with the officers and men who came from Pasley to reinforce the toun, when they were threatened by the rebels; and in making of the officers of the severall redgements that went thro' the town to Argyllshire Burgesses; including the allowance given by

the Magistrates to the several guards kept in the toune during the continuance of the leat rebellion; which account extends to the sum of £146 : 19s. Scots. *Item.*—Mistres Buchanan's account spent in her house att several times with the Earl of Glencairn, and with the captains of the men-of-war, who were made burgesses, they having assisted the burgh in retaking the boats from the Macgregors, and spent with Mr. Graham, sherif, and other gentlemen at several times anent the burgh's affairs, and with the officers of Cournal Edgertoun's redgement quartered in the toun; amount, £109 : 10s. Scots.

Item.—The account given in by Mrs. Lindsay and spent in her house by the magistrates and justices of the peace and other gentlemen of the shyre employed in the militia, and spent by the magistrates on uther occasions; amount, £52 : 9s. Scots.

Item.—The account of David Hutcheson for ane guard-room in his house for the officers of the militia and Cournal Edgertoun's redgement keeping guard in the Tolbooth, and for coal and candle to them in his house; amount, £20 : 9s.

Item.—Bailly Weir's account for powther, lead, and flint staness furnished be him; amount, £8 : 8s.

Item.—Ane account by Alexander M'Farlane, spent in his house by the magistrates with the officers of Edgertoun's redgement and other detachments, in demanding bilgats for the detachment, extending to the sum of £4 : 10s.

Item.—Ane account be Aulay M'Aulay, spent in his house by the quarter-master, in drawing bilgats to the forces, militia-men, and men-of-warr's crew; amount to £5 : 19s.

Item.—Ane account to Mrs. Buchanan, spent in her house by the magistrates with the officers of the men-of-war, with the Pasley-men who came to assist the toun in the tyme of the late rebellion, and with the sheriff and other gentlemen of the shyre on several occasions; amount, £110 : 19s.

Item.—To Andrew Graham, clerk, in consideration of his extraordinary pains and charges he was put to upon the town's account during the rebellion, £8.

Item.—The Magistrates and Council appoint Gilles Mitchell, the Treasurer, to pay to the several persons from whom the sax baggage horses were bought that dragged up the boats up the Leven, and were sent to the army; and to dispose of what of the said horses are now returned to the best advantage; altogether amounting to £1234 : 12 : 10d. pennies, Scots money."

We may remark here, in concluding the account of this extraordinary Rebellion, that the County appears to have got their expenses returned by government; but it does not appear from the record that the Magistrates ever applied for their quota, or that the poor Burgh was ever refunded a *single* shilling. Such has generally been the egregious remissness of the official gentlemen of the Burgh, during more than a century past, that we have been involved in ruin and poverty, and our public finances thus often thrown away, for the want of a simple application for their reimbursement. My general remark, however, only applies to the century preceding the passing of the Reform Bill. Since that period, the gentlemen who have successively filled the office of the Town Council have honourably husbanded the finances of the Burgh with the greatest care, and managed the other affairs generally with the greatest credit to themselves and benefit to the community.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE BURG.

In the palmy days of Toryism, and while the old rotten Scottish burgh system prevailed, many strange things were transacted in private, which the Burgh officials then in office would scarcely allow to see the light of day. Eventually, however, they were publicly exposed to observation, by the brilliant sun of the Reform Bill. With the other Burghs in Scotland, ours, for a long series of years, shared in misrule, mismanagement, and prodigality of expenditure, to even an excessive amount; so that when the Act passed for cleansing these Augean Burgh Stables, she was compelled to yield herself up in a state of insolvency. At the period referred to, our liabilities amounted to about £20,000, and assets to about £17,000. Besides other valuable property and fishings, we held an extensive moor of from four to five thousand acres, granted to us originally by Royal charter. This domain of land, being situated about five miles distant from the Burgh, was not so vigilantly guarded from the rapaciousness of the neighbouring proprietors as it ought. The consequence was, that many of the conterminous possessors of land took each a *slice* of it, without price or measurement. Such Vandal spo-

liation could not be tolerated. Nevertheless, having retained it for many years, they had the hardihood to fight the Burgh for this *cheap* land, at the Court of Session and the House of Lords, with great expense to all parties: the Corporation was, however, finally triumphant. The first encroachment made on these lands was in April 1719, and the legal procedure was ended in 1843; being a period of 124 years, during which it cost the Burgh, to defend it at Court, about the value of the whole land—£10,000 sterling. Lying adjacent to the lands of James Ewing, Esq. this valuable piece of ground has been recently purchased by him; which forms a fine addition to his beautiful estate of Strathleven. The above legal and other extravagant debts became at length an incubus on the shoulders of the Burgh, under which she could scarcely stand; especially if there be added to these a little profuse public and private feasting, and an enormous expenditure in defending our "Exemptions on the River Clyde" from the grasping ambition of the "Glasgow River Trust," which latter matter has cost this Town and other companies and commercial gentlemen connected with the Burgh, during the last twenty years, more than £10,000!

In bygone years, the head of our Municipal Corporation was a gentleman of wealth, influence, and great courtesy; and, withal, possessed of deep political acumen, as the following interesting Parliamentary election manoeuvre will show:—

The Provost occasionally swayed Burgh matters like an autocrat or petty prince over the other Councillors, some of whom were so shallow in the understanding that they could scarcely give an opinion on any subject. Hence, on any important matter being discussed at the Council table, the interrogatory was often put—What does the Provost say? and all bowed obsequiously to his opinion.

Previous to the passing of the Reform Act, the City of Glasgow, with Dumbarton, Renfrew, and Rutherglen, unitedly sent a Member to Parliament. Glasgow generally wished to claim right, by her great wealth and influence, to monopolise the selection of the Member to herself. On the election of the candidate by the four Burghs, when there was a parity of votes, the *casting* vote went to each Burgh alternately. At the period we speak of, the casting vote fell to the Burgh of Dumbarton.

Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Blythswood, and Kirkman Finlay, Esq. of Castle Toward, both appeared as candidates.

The City of Glasgow and Burgh of Renfrew were favourable to Mr. Campbell; Rutherglen was in rather a doubtful state between the two gentlemen. This state of things gave rise to the tug of electioneering war: Dumbarton set to work zealously to play her political cards in the matter. Our dexterous Burgh leader laid down and accomplished the plan of conferring a series of kindnesses on the good honest Rutherglen officials; and, being peculiarly well attended to, they were neither dry nor hungry for ten complete days. The result was, that a majority of the Town Council of Rutherglen were favourable for voting along with the Burgh of Dumbarton; and, in order to keep them secure from being tampered with by the City of Glasgow, it was proposed that they should take a "Highland jaunt." Two coaches were therefore speedily procured, and, without much ceremony, they left the Royal Burgh of Rutherglen for the Highlands.

The interesting tour extended to Drymen, Aberfoil, Loch Ketturin, Loch Lomond, and the top of Ben Lomond; which mountain they nimbly ascended, accompanied with servants bearing Champagne and "*Mountain Dew*;" and every other creature comfort for their honours' entertainment. On this lofty eminence, the Council being duly constituted, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously resolved, that they support an eloquent young gentleman—a branch of the family of the Provost of Dumbarton—in preference to either of the other two candidates. Business being finished, they then adjourned from the top of lofty Ben to the low country. In due time they arrived at our Burgh, from the elevated mountain of their deliberations, and passed a happy night or two with our own officials, in fixing and maturing preliminaries for carrying the united decision of the two Burghs into effect.

In the midst of this triumph, when hilarity and joy prevailed, a poetical wag composed the following humorous lines on the occasion:—

Not a *cheep* was heard, nor the slightest noise,
When the Provost declared his opinion;
Not a Councillor raised his husky voice
To oppose our patron's minion.

We settled it all at the dead hour of night,
When the vulgar herd were dreaming;

When six wax candles were blazing bright,
And a glorious bowl was streaming.

No useless conditions clogged our votes,
Nor with pledge or promise we bound him;
But we sent him away to the Commons' House,
With all his independence around him.

Few and brief were the speeches we made,
And we spake not a word of sorrow;
But we steadfastly gazed on the ample bowl,
With the prospect of headaches to-morrow.

We thought, as we drank our Member's health,
With a bit of a short oration,
That the storm without might rage and howl,
And the Member might go to his station.

Lightly they'll talk of him, now that he's gone,
Perchance they may even upbraid him;
But little he'll heed, if he gets a good berth,
And a snug little salary paid him.

But half of our tipple was hardly done,
When the clock told the hour for retiring;
And we saw the rays of the morning sun
Coming up the horizon skyring.

Sinuous were the erring paths we made
To the place of our dormitory;
Where we tumbled in with boots 'pon the bed,
And they left us alone in our glory.

EXEMPTIONS ON THE RIVER CLYDE.

We will shortly turn attention to a subject which has occupied the deliberations of this community during many years past, and which it would be unpardonable to omit, in concisely sketching the local history of our ancient Burgh. We refer to the exemptions on the River Clyde enjoyed by the resident burgesses of Dumbarton. The defending of these, in repeated

contests before the British Parliament, from the rapacious hands of the Clyde trustees, has cost the burgh, with the shipowners and other merchants here, from £10,000 to £12,000 sterling. All we intend at present is to give an historical epitome of these invaluable immunities, from the earliest period to the present time, with the examination of Mr. Pollok, partner of the firm of Messrs. Pollok & Gilmour, timber importers, Glasgow, and also of Mr. Thomson, lessee of the river dues, before "a committee of appeal," in the House of Commons, in the year 1830.

During the revolution of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the commercial traffic of the Clyde was of minor importance, as it consisted chiefly in short voyages made in small craft to the several ports, lochs, and bays which lay scattered along its banks: these were undertaken for the supplying of the local wants and necessities of the inhabitants who dwelt in the towns, burghs, and villages which skirt its delightful shores. The foreign trade of North Britain in these early days, from its trifling nature, scarcely indeed deserves the name. Flanders was the principal port to which vessels went from the Clyde. Their cargoes were comprised of only a few articles of rude produce, such as "wool and wool fells," &c.; their imports were some articles of "haberdashery, cart-wheels, and wheelbarrows," which certainly show the very low state of mechanics in Scotland at this era. (See Nackluft's Voyages, 1599.) With France a little intercourse was held, but it could not be said to partake of commerce, strictly so called, being rather of a naval and martial nature. The Duke of Albany, who was appointed Regent of Scotland in 1515, arrived at the Castle of Dunbriton, from France, with eight ships loaded with ammunition and other warlike stores.

By the Charters of Erection of the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton, and particularly by a Charter of Confirmation of King James VI. granted in the year 1609, the corporation and community of Dumbarton acquired right to levy rates and duties from all "ships and vessels, currachs and crearies," of every description, whether home or foreign, with goods therein, navigating the River Clyde, from the "water of Kelvin," near Glasgow, to the head of Lochlong in Argyleshire. For centuries no foreign or home vessel dared sail past the Castle—which was like the Dardanelles—for fear of its guns, without first "*breaking bouk, tapping and selling*" of their cargoes to

the favoured burgesses of Dunbriton, and taking "out coquets," or clearances, and paying the dues and customs to the Burgh, *before* proceeding to Glasgow on their voyage.

We find a very old document amongst the Burgh records, referring to these privileges and immunities, purporting, we suppose, to be a kind of law paper, entitled "Informatione for the Toune of Dumbartane, *contra* the Toune of Glasgow, 1666"—181 years old—wherein it is stated "that by verteu of foirsaad chartors and evidents, Dumbartane has had continuall possessione past memorie of man, and they hav undoubtted richt to thei particulars following, viz. entries, anchorage, measorag, weyag, tunnag, and assyse bols; to witt, a bol befor the mast, and a bol eftir the mast, of al vessells loadent with salt belounging to strangers; as also ane hogghheid of wyne before the mast, and another eftir the mast, of all vessells loadent with wyne, belonging to strangers, as sd. is. *Item*, two dails of evrie hundred dails, and so of uther timber belonging to strangers," &c.

The customs, dues, and revenues from the River Clyde were held and enjoyed by Dumbarton for many centuries; till, in the year 1700, the City of Glasgow became envious of these invaluable immunities, and purchased them from the Burgh of Dumbarton, for the sum of 4000 merks Scots, or £250 : 2*d*. sterling—under the expressly stipulated condition of Dumbarton reserving her burgesses' right of navigating the Clyde freely, with all their vessels and goods, and being exempted from all dues at the Broomielaw, and every other port belonging to Glasgow. A contract of sale was solemnly drawn out, sanctioned and approved of at the convention of Royal Burghs, 9th of July, 1700, and ratified by the Scottish Parliament in 1701, entitled "Ratification of a Contract betwixt the Burghs of Glasgow and Dumbarton, anent their rights and privileges to the River Clyde." Wherein it is "declaired that the hail vessels and boats belonging to the Burgesses, inhabitants of the Burgh of Dumbarton, of whatsoever size, are exempted from, and are no wise liable in, payment of any duties whatever at the said Burgh of Glasgow, Broomielaw, Port-Glasgow, or any other port or harbour belonging thereto—so that both Burghs are hereby declared free at each others' ports in all time coming."

In the year 1825, the Trustees of the River Clyde applied

to Parliament for powers to increase the rates and duties on the said River, and at the said harbour of Broomielaw; and they at that period made a very dishonourable and flagitious but unsuccessful attempt to subvert entirely the chartered *legal vested* rights of the Burgesses of Dumbarton. These valuable privileges were nobly defended by the late Provost, Jacob Dixon, Sen. and were, by his exertions and influence in Parliament, recognised in a clause of the said Act, but greatly curtailed from their original extent. The defending of these rights, with the Parliamentary contest in getting them embodied in the bill at that period, cost the burgh and community of Dumbarton a large sum of money, which they could ill afford to spare, burdened as she then was, and still is, with a load of debt.

In 1829, the river Clyde Trustees again entered Parliament against Dumbarton, with the bold and unprincipled design of obtaining powers "to abrogate entirely the exemptions enjoyed by the burgesses of Dumbarton on the river Clyde!!" not deigning to ask whether she would sell them or not!! It is needless to remark, that, after another severe contest, the bill, by an enlightened legislature, was ignominiously thrown out, with a gentle philippic bestowed by the Chairman of the Committee on the then River Trustees. In the printed case for the River Trustees, laid before Parliament, they say "the exemption appears to people in general so unjust, unreasonable, and extravagant, that they are satisfied that it will not be allowed by Parliament longer to exist!!" The defeating of this bill cost the burgh £1500 sterling and upwards.

Next year, 1830, again the Trustees appeared in Parliament against Dumbarton, but they were by this time persuaded and convinced that it was far from honourable or just to deprive poor Dumbarton of her just rights and property, without a fair and adequate indemnification. They therefore gave notice of a "Bill to be introduced into Parliament for repealing the whole Acts relating to these exemptions, in so far as the said Acts or any of them grant, provide, or recognise any exemption or immunity in favour of ships, barges, lighters, steam-boats, or any other boats or vessels, with the cargoes thereof, belonging *bona fide* in property to burgesses, resident inhabitants of the towns of Dumbarton and Glasgow respectively, from the payment of river or harbour rates or duties payable upon the said river, in virtue of the said Acts, or any of them, or other-

wise; and for enabling the Trustees, acting under the authority of the said first recited Act, to purchase up and acquire any such exemption or immunity from any person or persons, or body or bodies corporate, to whom the same does or may belong, or for otherwise relieving the said Trustees and the public of the effect of such exemption or immunity."

Our burgh had again to buckle on her armour, and meet again in Parliament her formidable foe. A corporation, possessing such an ample revenue at their command, were determined to crush the ancient Burgh under their feet, and drive her to frequent bankruptcy and ruin.

In the speech of Mr. Wynn, a member of the committee of the House of Commons, delivered on this occasion, in June 1830, he indignantly and eloquently remarks:—"See what prodigious advantages are given by a practice, such as this, to a corporate body having large funds at its disposal. They can say to a party of more limited means, 'we shall tire you out; year after year we will recommence the same system of litigation,' until at length the patience of their weakened opponent is at an end, and his funds are exhausted, and he has at length in despair to relinquish that which he believes to be his just rights." (See Speech of Mr. Wynn, in the House of Commons, 10th June, 1830.)

The Bill passed the Committee of the Commons, embodying the following clauses:—"That the amount and value of the exemption is declared to be £15,000, which sum is to be expended on the improvement of the harbour and quays of Dumbarton, and the present owners of vessels and steam-boats are to have the exclusive privilege of exemption during their lives."

A petition of appeal from the decision of the Committee on this Bill, in name of the Magistrates, was forthwith carried into execution, and presented to the House on the 26th June, which was granted, on a division, by a majority of 24 to 17. The Committee of Appeal consisted of seven members, who were ballotted for. The Committee met first day, but no business done; and having assembled second day, heard Mr. Harrison, on the part of the Corporation of Dumbarton, and Mr. Adam in answer, for the Trustees of the River Clyde. Adjourned, for the purpose of perusing the evidence at leisure.

On Monday, the third day, after mature deliberation, from which the parties were as usual excluded, the Chairman, on

their being recalled, stated that the Committee considered any remarks unnecessary; that they had passed a resolution to report "the preamble of the Bill not proved; and, further, that supposing a preamble had been proved, sufficient to justify a Bill, they could not find, in all the minutes of proof, one tittle of evidence to show that £15,000 was a just compensation, or that it could be beneficially expended on the harbour of Dumbarton; but if the counsel for the R. Trustees could point out any evidence in the minutes, bearing upon that point, the Committee were willing to hear him." This opportunity Mr. Adam, counsel for the Trustees, at once declined; remarking to the Appeal Committee, "that he was not a candidate for the honour of leading 'a forlorn hope.'" The consequence was, that the Bill was thrown out, after it had cost the River Clyde Trustees nearly £4000—the Burgh of Dumbarton about £1950—the Dumbarton Steam-boat Company and Shipowners, about £1000—and also, the Dumbarton Glass work Company, about £1000: total, nearly £8000. The following are a few brief extracts from the minutes of evidence taken before the Committee on the above bill; showing the importance and great value of these exemptions to the Burgh and Burgesses of Dumbarton. Mr. John Thomson was called, and examined by Mr. Heath, counsel for the promoters of the bill.

Q.—I believe you are a merchant in Glasgow? A.—Yes.

Are you lessee of the River and Harbour Duties?—Yes.

How long have you known the River Clyde?—I have known the River Clyde for twenty-five years.

Do you know, in fact, that the Dumbarton burgesses are exempted from the payment of duties on the R. Clyde?—Yes.

Do you know the amount of the exemptions of the Dumbarton people for 1825?—Not correctly; I had the charge only for part of the year.

In the year 1829, how much was it?—From the nearest calculation I have been able to make, it was £545.

There is a firm of Pollok and Gilmour, timber merchants, at Glasgow?—Yes.

Are they considerable shipowners?—Yes.

Could you tell me what they would save by removing to Dumbarton?—Not correctly.

As near as you can?—Probably £1400 or £1500 annually.

I heard Mr. Pollok say he thought it would be that saving to him at least.

Is that the annual saving?—Yes.

Is there anything to prevent that but their removing down to Dumbarton?—I believe not.

What is James Donaldson?—James Donaldson is a slater in Glasgow; he wished to land his slates free from duty at the Broomielaw harbour, and for that purpose he went down to Dumbarton and got admitted a burgess, and took a small house there, a *but* and a *ben*. I do not know what the extent of the house was; it was a very trifling one.

He wanted to land his slates free at Glasgow, and took a *but* and a *ben* at Dumbarton?—Yes.

Are there any slate quarries at Lochlomond?—Yes.

To make it convenient for any person to land slates free at Glasgow, they have only to take a *but* and a *ben* at Dumbarton?—Yes, very convenient.

Questioned by Mr. Alderson, counsel for the burgh:—

The party who took the *but* and the *ben*, did he not set it up as a defence that he was a burgess, and had taken the *but* and the *ben*?—I dare say he did.

Have you any doubt about it?—It is likely he did.

Now, the next person was a widow, did she not say she was a freeman; was not that the point?—That she would wear the breeches, I suppose that was the point.

Was there any doubt that she was a woman?—I fancy none at all.

I think you explained, Mr. Thomson, that steam-boats, the property of resident burgesses of Dumbarton, in a direct voyage from Dumbarton to Glasgow and back, with liberty to touch at certain other places, are exempted?—They are.

It is not necessary, is it, in other vessels, sailing vessels for instance, coming from Ireland, belonging to the resident burgesses of Dumbarton, they need not touch at Dumbarton?—No, it is not necessary.

Then all vessels can trade up the Clyde, being the property of the resident burgesses of Dumbarton, from any part of the world, without touching at Dumbarton, and be exempt?—They can.

And be exempt?—Yes, exempt.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harrison, counsel for the burgh of Dumbarton:—

Mr. Thomson, when you say the Dumbarton people are your masters, what do you mean?—They do not acknowledge my authority; there are certain laws, which we call our harbour regulations, which they do not submit to.

Why do you not make them submit to them?—Because that would be spending money.

Do you mean to say that the Dumbarton people are such great people that they are enabled to fight all Glasgow?—No, I do not say that.

Mr. John Pollok (of the firm of Pollok & Gilmour, timber-importers), was called in and examined by Mr. Adam, counsel for the River Trust:—

Are you a merchant, carrying on business in Glasgow?—Yes.

What firm do you belong to?—Pollok, Gilmour, & Co.

How long have you been in business?—Thirty years.

You, as a merchant, know what the feelings of the merchants are, as to these exemptions in favour of the town of Dumbarton; have the merchants of Glasgow come to any determination as to what course they will take if these exemptions are continued?—They probably have not come that length yet.

Has it been discussed between the commercial community of Glasgow?—It has been certainly talked of.

What may be the consequence, in your judgment, of the continuing of these exemptions?—I probably speak more from our own trade; I think the consequence would be, that, if those exemptions are continued, I have no doubt they would take the advantages of it.

Am I to understand that some of you would become burghesses of Dumbarton, and go to reside there?—Certainly.

And still carry on their trade at Glasgow?—Certainly.

Will you tell me, in point of money, what advantage per annum would accrue to your house if you were to entitle yourselves to these exemptions?—I think, from the trade of last year, it would probably run from £1500 to £1800 annually?

A year?—Yes.

Then you would get that advantage over your rivals in trade, if you or your partners were to reside at Dumbarton and take up your freedom?—Yes.

Has it been in the contemplation of you and your partners to determine to do so?—We certainly have thought of it.

Do you know any other house which has the same matter under consideration in the city of Glasgow?—I am perfectly satisfied, if these exemptions continue as they are, and our own house and others take this advantage, I think it would put it out of the power of other houses who do not take these advantages to compete with us in trade.

Are there circumstances connected with your house in particular which make it more advantageous for you to go to Dumbarton than any other house?—I am not aware of that.

Would not the same reason apply to persons employed in trade in grain and other articles?—I think so, if they did business to the same extent.

Is Dumbarton a place which a man could make up his mind to live at?—I think so.

Would it be a great punishment to go from Dumbarton to Glasgow by the steam-boat and back again to dinner on the same day?—Certainly no punishment but a great pleasure and comfort; I see no difficulty in doing it whatever.

Would it be more inconvenient than a gentleman going in a stage-coach from the city of London to Enfield, going back again to dinner at six o'clock on the same day?—I should think not; I cannot conceive a more pleasant and easy way of travelling than by a steam-boat.

What is the distance?—About sixteen miles.

How many hours do you take to go?—A little more than an hour.

Have you ever been an inside passenger in the Hampstead stage coach?—No, Sir.

Is there any inconvenience in a gentleman living at Dumbarton and carrying on his business at Glasgow?—I think not; if there was saving to be made by it, I think we should find no difficulty in doing so.

Then why, Mr. Pollok, if, after all these advantages are to accrue from a Dumbarton residence, why have you not gone there?—It is not very long since I was made aware properly of the benefit that might have been obtained from it.

Do you think that to save £1800 a year in a merchant's account is a matter of light consideration, or very important?—Certainly very important; in the present state of trade especially.

Immediately after the abandonment of the bill by the Clyde Trust, the writer of these pages was assured, by the late Provost Jacob Dixon, the late Mr. James Rankine, and others of the Town Council, that the Burgh and Burgesses of Dumbarton would have obtained about £50,000 from the River Trust for the entire abolition of these exemptions, so valuable and important did they then appear in the estimation of the "Trustees." For being the very active and efficient instrument in getting the Appeal Committee in the House of Commons, who gave the death-blow to this bill, Provost Dixon, on his arrival from London, was met in the vicinity of the Town by the great body of the Burgesses, with other gentlemen, and honourably escorted into the ancient Burgh, passing under a triumphal arch, formed of flowers and evergreens, erected for the purpose of thus doing him honour.

Again, in January, 1836, our formidable and wealthy opponents dragged the Burgh within the walls of St. Stephen's, by another Bill, empowering them "to purchase up, by jury valuation, the exemption of Dumbarton Burgesses on the River Clyde," and the jury to be composed of "Lanarkshire gentlemen" *alone*. The official gentlemen of the Burgh, and the general body of the Burgesses, seeing that the oft-repeated attacks made on these immunities by the Clyde Trustees were not only vexatious but absolutely ruinous to the burgh and corporation, resolved to effect with the Trustees a private sale, if a fair and adequate remuneration were obtained, and the necessary clauses on arrangement could be inserted in the Bill to be brought in. Several conferences were held by a deputation from Dumbarton with a sub-committee of the Trust. £16,000 sterling was talked of as being a fair equivalent for the privileges, under the express reservation of the life-rent right to all the existing resident burgesses of the Burgh; and £10,000 more for their life-rent right; making £26,000 for an out-and-out sale. Further conferences took place privately between the parties, with a variety of correspondence, embracing several important points, all of which finally ended in agreeing to give and accept of £15,000 in cash for these long-contended for privileges, under the express reservation of the *life-rent* right to all the resident burgesses of the burgh of Dumbarton then existing. The following are the most important clauses mutually agreed upon, and which were embodied in the Bill alluded

to, in place of those of the jury valuation clauses in it originally :—

“ And whereas it would be for the public advantage, and for the benefit of the traders upon the said river and Firth of Clyde, and resorting to the said harbour, if the said rights of exemption or immunity were repealed and done away with, compensation and indemnity being made and granted for the same to the body or bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, or person or persons entitled thereto, to the extent to which the said exemptions at present exist.

“ Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted, That the said Trustees shall, within three months from the date of the passing of this Act, pay, and are hereby required to pay, from the funds under their management, the sum of fifteen thousand pounds sterling to the Magistrates and Town Council of the Royal burgh of Dumbarton, for the behoof of the burgesses and community thereof, as a fair and adequate compensation and indemnity to the corporation, burgesses, and community of the said burgh, for all the immunities and exemptions enjoyed by them under the said recited charters, contracts, and acts, under the express and understood reservation always of the rights of existing resident burgesses, as hereinafter provided for. And that the whole of the said immunities and exemptions recognised or granted by the said charters, contracts, and acts, shall, under the reservation aforesaid, from and after the date of the said payment, be entirely abolished, extinguished, and for ever cease and determine.”

The other clauses and provisions of this Bill having the more extensive deepening of the Clyde, purchasing property adjacent to its banks, forming wet docks, extending and otherwise improving the harbour, borrowing money to an enormous amount, augmenting the rates on tonnage of vessels, steamers, and goods; it therefore met with formidable opposition from a *host* of parties whose interests it affected. But happily it cost our Burgh little or no expense, she having previously arranged with the Trust, and guaranteed to petition in its favour, which was all her cost. It was, however, like some of its predecessors, sentenced to death by the legislature, executed, and dishonourably thrown out!!! The last contest with the River Trust is well known, for it is scarcely six months old. We are now happy to say, that, through the great exertions of a deputation of burgesses

sent to London, who were nobly supported by our County and Burgh members of Parliament, we have now got a clause into the "River and Dock Bill" of the Trustees, recently passed, allowing our steamers a place at the Upper Wharf, which the Committee of the House of Commons stated we should always have enjoyed.

In conclusion, we beg to give here the following brief statistical summary of the present population, &c. of our ancient Burgh, which may be found interesting to our readers.

Established Church, (Rev. A. Gray) erected 1811, cost £4000, 1650 Sittings.				
Free Church, (Rev. J. Smith)	"	1844,	"	1150, 650 "
Secession Church, (Rev. W. M. A. Halley)	1831,	"	1750,	600 "
Relief Church, (Rev. W. S. Thomson)	1796,	"	1100,	850 "
Catholic Chapel, (—)	1834,	"	1000,	260 "

Population of the County in 1841,.....44,301

Parliamentary Constituency in 1846,..... 1288

Member for the County, ALEXANDER SMOLLETT, Esq. of Bonhill.

Population of the Burgh in 1841—males, 2198; females, 2255—total, 4453.

Parliamentary Constituency in 1846,.....174.

This Burgh, with Renfrew, Rutherglen, Kilmarnock, and Port-Glasgow, return one member to Parliament. Kilmarnock is the place where the result of the poll is to be ascertained and declared.

Member for the combined Burghs, Hon. EDWARD PLEYDELL BOUVERIE.

The steamers Dumbarton Castle, Lochlomond, and Premier, ply regularly every day between Dumbarton, Glasgow, and Greenock. In summer, one of these steamers leaves Glasgow every morning at 7 and 11, with passengers to Lochlomond, for the steamers "Water Witch" and "*Marchioness of Breadalbane*," plying on that romantic lake, and returns to Glasgow in the evening. The steamer Dumbuck plies daily between Dumbarton and Glasgow with goods. Several omnibuses and stage coaches start from Dumbarton at different hours every day for the Vale of Leven and Balloch Ferry, on the verge of Lochlomond.

APPENDIX.

THE following is an extract from an Act of the Scottish Parliament against "Consultors with Devils and Familiar Spirits, and against Witches and Consultors with them," 1649:—"The estates of Parliament now convened in this second Session, understanding that ther ar some persons who consult with devells and familiar spirits, who, notwithstanding of the 73d act of Queen Mary, whereby it is ordained, that all witches, sorcerers, necromancers, and consultors with them, ar to be punished with death, doe yet draue to themselves impunity, becaus consultors ar not expressly mentioned in the said act, doe therefor, for further clearing thereof, declair and ordein, that whatsoever person or persons shall consulte with devells or familiar spirits, ar liable to the pains contained in the said act, and shall be punished by death; and the said estates ratifies and approves all former acts made against witches, sorcerors, necromancers, and consulters with them, in the whole heads, articles, and clauses thereof."

Kirk-Session Records, Dumbarton, 1620.

"2d Aprilis. The qlk day Kathrein Barnat, to the end sche may be admitted to ye communion, ordained to mack hir repentance in sack-cloth, and to stan at ye kirk door, betwixt ye second and third bell, and yrefter to go to ye place of repentence, and yt ay and quhill sche be fund penitent for hir consultin and charmin.—Jonat Byde lykwyse ordeined to satisfie eftir the samyn maner in lynnyn clothes, for hir seiking of charmes from hir. The qlk day also bothe ye for-said pairties enacted yemselves not to be fund guilty of ye foresaid fault under ye paine of death."

"1597. A woman, suspected of witchcraft, was put in Paisley jail, and, having died there, the Magistrates of Paisley requested the Sheriff of Renfrewshire to be at the expense of her funeral. He refused; and the Magistrates buried the reputed witch themselves. And to mark their displeasure and punish the Sheriff, they, by an act of Council—for which a special meeting was called—ordered that he should never after have the honor of sitting in the 'kirk seat' belonging to the town."

"1620. Oct. 13. The kirk-session ratify an act at this date, anent attending the kirk in kirk time, with the addition, that if neither the gudeman nor gudwife be in the kirk on Sunday, they sall pay 20s. Scots, als oft and how oft." "They also ratifie the act that no woman sall wash or tramp clothes in anie part of the town, within sight of the High Street, under the pain of 40s. Scots, toties quoties."

"1620. Dunbartane, 19th Dec. The said day, Robert Ewing decernit to pay 3s. 4d. for bydding from the kirk; Jonat Buchanan 4s.; Bessie Colquhoun 6s. The said day, Robert Colquhoun payit for himself and his wyff, for absence from the kirk, 8s."

"1620. Aug. 27. Robt. Glen, Andro Glen, Tomas Owing, and Jhone M'Kornie, for lowssing ther boattis on ye Sabbothe and travelling up to Glasgow with them, was ordanit ye nixt Sabbothe to crave God pardone for the profanatione of ye Sabbothe."

"Expensis of Weddings. 28th Aug. The whilk day, in respect of the chairseness of victuals, ye sessionne ordains yt bryddell lawingis sall not exceid fyve schillingis at dinner, or at supper three schillingis an four pennies, utherwayis ye parties married to loss yer consignationne."

"1621. May 13. The quhilk day Jhone Spittell desyring up his monie of consignationne, ther was halden thereof 40s. becaus his bryddell lawingis (or expensis) excedit ye laite acte of ye Sessione anent bryddell lawingis."

"1621. Aug. 29. Ordainis ye kirk to be repairit in the ruiff and laftis, and ye north yll to be built, and to tak ordor for buildin of ye south yll. Also ordaines ye beddell, Jon Tome, and his successors, to ring the mort (dead) bell before all personis deceased within toun for sic pryces as ye minister and sessione sall sett doune. (This bell is still in existence, but not used.) Whilk day it was also ordainit yt Jhone Tom sould ring ye mort bell befor ye deid, and yt non sould mak anie grav on the kirk yaud bot he onlye or ane gin he sall chose to do the samme, for ye doinge whereof it was ordainit also, yt for the corps yt hathe ye velvett mortclothe sould be payit unto him twentie schillingis, an twelf schillingis for them yt hav ye mortclothe of black Inglishe clothe, exceptane allwayis poor anis, they only to pay sax schillingis; and for everie bairne an young ane half-price, according to ye mortclothe that they sall hav: to wit, for bairnis yt hav ye velvett mortclothe ten schillingis, an for thees that hav ye other, sax schillingis, and for poor anis ane groat."

"Sess. May 28. The qlk day the Sessionne ordainit yt everie personne being warned to cum to the examination, if they refus to cum ane of the twa days qlk sall be appointed to them, sall pay everie ane four schillingis. Leikwayse, yet if ane personne so cumes to be examined be found ignorant of ye prayer, belief, or commands, in yt case they sall pay for everie ane of thees qrof they sall be ignorant twall schillingis, except yt utin ye space of sax weiks thereafter they lerne them."

Act of the Scottish Parliament against Swearing, Drunkenness, Scolding, and other profanities.—7th August, 1645.

“The Estates of Parliament, considering that by the solemn National Covenant, sworn and subscribed by people of all ranks within this kingdom, and ratified in Parliament in 1641—the whole lieges have bound themselves before God, with a solemn oath, so to behave themselves, in their lives and conversations, as beseemeth Christians who have renewed their covenant with God. This Parliament ordains by this act, further, that whosoever shall be found guilty and culpable of any one or other of the vices mentioned herein, by any civil or ecclesiastical judicatory whereunto they are subject, shall be liable unto the several respective penalties mentioned in the said Act; and ordains this said Act to be extended and executed against swearing, drunkenness, and mocking of piety—against scolders, filthy speakers, and makkers or singers of bawdy songs—and against all those who, under whatsoever name, or by whatsoever gesture, drink healths, or scolds, and who motion the same among others thereunto. Therefore the Estates, for curbing all such vices as are gross and most usual, and for putting a mark on the committers of the same, statute and ordain, that whosoever shall scold, swear, or blaspheme, and whosoever shall drink excessively, especially under the name of healths, and also all mockers and reproachers of piety, or the exercise thereof, or who shall be found culpable of all or any one or other of the foresaid vices; by any Kirk judicatory whereunto they are subject, shall, after the second conviction, be fined and censured in manner following, according to station, rank, and quality: viz. that ilk nobleman shall pay twenty pounds for the said second conviction, and ilk faut thereafter, *toties quoties*; ilk baron, twenty merks; ilk gentleman, heritor, or burges, ten merks; ilk yeoman, fourty shillings; ilk servant, twenty shillings; ilk minister, the fifth part of his year’s stipends; and that the wives’ delinquents against this Act be punished according to the quality of their husbands, and that the husbands be liable in payment of their wives’ fines. And it is ordained, that the saids fines be employed, *ad pios usus*, (to pious uses,) in the parish where the offender dwells.

“And further, it is ordained, that ilk master who shall keep and maintain any of his servants offending in the premises, in his company, after they shall be sentenced conformed to the present statute, shall be liable in the servant’s fines; and it is declared, that the executing of this Act shall be beside and without prejudice to the Kirk censure.”

Fines for Scoldings, &c.—Kirk Session Records.

“1620, Martij 26.—Qlk daye Lachlane Palmer compleint on Maren Robisonn of certain imprecationes spoken by hir against

him : defender compeitit denyit ye samyn : ye compleiner took in han to prov it, bot in his probatione thairfor lost his two mark of consignatione conformed to ye order. The said Maren Robissonn by hir awin consent maid for hir and hir dochters, yt yei sall nehr curse nor sclander Lachlane Palmer under ye paine of five punds, and qt further ye Sessionne sall injoyne."

"Julie 9.—The quhilk day Agnes Garnir, bein fund guiltie of sclandering her husband foolishlie, withoutt onie grund, awtt Jhone Crumme's dochtir, was ordainit the neist Sabothe, in her awin seait, to crave God pardonne for ye foresaid sclander, an paye ane penaltie of twa marks, or otherways to be put in ye joggis."

"October 2.—The qlk daye Jonatt Davie was convict of Douratte Dog, as lykways of skandalous misbehaivir himself towards her husband, lost hir twenty four schillingis of consignatione, and was ordanit ye next Sabothe opinlie in ye congregationne to giv ane confessionne of bothe foursaid faultis ; and also ye said Jonatt Davie inactit hirsell, if sche heirafter was fund, tryit, and guiltie of skandalous misbehaiving hirsell in time comin towards her husbunde, or of abusing him, to staune ane wholl Sabothe daye in ye joggis."

"Octobris 17.—Katrine Nickalsonne, for swearing openlie in ye Streitts, was ordanit lykways ye nixt Sabothe to crave God pardonne opinlie in ye congregatioun. The sam daye Nans Ferriar, bein admonishit for misbehaiven hirsell and drinkin wtt Dutchemen, becaus sche was out of service, was ordanit to serv in Jamis Periak's qll Martinmarse nixt, and yt yrafter to enter in som honest service, or els to remooove hirsell off the town into ye performance qrof sche enacted hirsell withe hir awn consentt."

"July 21, 1622.—The quhilk daye compeirit Jhone Beittoune, younger, quho confessit yt he had in his passione of angir cursitt ye Turkis for no deteinning and holding of Jhon Campelle, sailler, when the uthers of his companie was takene, and yt he had wissit yt he nor nane of his companie sould evir com home againe, and also yt he had wissit that all Dumbartane to be in ane fyre—wes ordaint to stand ane Sabbothe bair foottit and leggitt in ye haire gownne at ye kirk door, betwixt ye second and third bells, and yrafter in ye public plaice of repentance in tym of preiching, in manir foirsaid."

"July 28.—The quhilk daye compeirit Jonatt Parker, and faund guiltie of unreverent speiches towards ye minesters and ye visitors, and of givinge ane of yem ane lie ; as lykwise of wissing fyir and reid low about thir lugges, who had lied of hir, as sche alleagit—wes ordainid to mak hir repentance, and pay tuo merks of penalty."

The following Exeerpts are from "The Book of the Assignment of Stipends."

"In 1574, the Rev. Edward Cussak was incumbent of this parish ;

and, as Cardross was then *united* to it, there was appointed *Readers*, who might in some measure assist in imparting religious instruction. The Reader, or, as it is in the old MS. "*Reidare*," in Dumbarton, was a Mr. Robert Flattisbury, and the "*Reidare*" in Cardross a Mr. Andro Robison. The stipend of the Parish Minister was at that early period £104 and the kirk lands. The salary of Mr. Flattisbury was £20, and Mr. Robison had £10 and the kirk lands. The above sums were reckoned in Scottish money.

"In 1588, it is stated 'that there is in the LENNOX twentie-four Kirk, and not four Ministers amongst them all.' And the reason assigned is, 'that qualified men could not be found, so long as the PATRIMONIE of the Kirk is so rugged.' That is, we suppose, *torn* and *plundered* by the ARISTOCRACY.

"In 1608, we find the following interesting notice:—'Upon the 8th of November there was an earthquake at nyne houres at night, sensible at St. Andrewes, Cowper, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundie, but MORE *sensible* at DUMBARTON; for there the people were so affrayed that they rane to the kirk, together with their Minister, to cry to God, for they looked *presentlie* for *destruction*. It was thought that the extraordinar drouth in the summer and winter was the caus of it.'"

Short Excerpts taken from the Burgh Records.

"1719, Jan.—Proposition from the Provost, he being desirous to know if the burgesses and inhabitants of the town had any further thought of applying to Parliament, for an act to uplift 'two pennies Scots' upon the pint of ale brewed and drank in the burgh; the proceeds of the tax to be employed in draining the Broad Meadow, to save the town from an inundation: the breaches on the embankments made by the storm of the preceding winter being very much enlarged."

MOOR.

"1719, April.—First complaint of encroachments made on the town's moor, and an appointment made for perambulating the marches thereof."

BROAD MEADOW.

"1719, Oct. 31.—'Quarry Graith' to be got ready for bringing stones from 'James Head Quarry' for the water-work at the Broad Meadow.

"1720, Jan. 9.—Revival of former Acts of Council as to profuse spending in public-houses, and certain rules and regulations adopted thereanent."

"1723, June 23.—As there was no 'baxter' or baker in the town,

an invitation is given to one from Glasgow to set up in the burgh, and, for his encouragement, he is allowed his freedom gratis; and the treasurer is ordered to pay him twelve pounds Scots yearly, for five years after his entry, as a help to pay his bake-house rent."

"1731, April 21.—It was represented again that several persons were still pasturing cattle on the 'acres,' 'Milner acre,' and other places belonging to the town's common, without 'owning' the Council: orders were promptly issued to pound the cattle."

"1736, Oct. 29.—Process against the town, at the instance of the Earl of Eglinton, relative to the patronage of the parish church of Dumbarton. The particular papers are therefore ordered out of the 'Charter Chist,' and to be laid before a lawyer to defend the town."

"1742.—A year of partial famine. The Magistrates and Council imported a quantity of grain, and sold it to the burgesses and inhabitants at a low rate, on which there appears a deficiency to the burgh of £14 : 16 : 4*d.* sterling."

"1748, Sept.—Enactment of Council as to taylors:—Any of the incorporation of taylors refusing to work out of their own houses to any of the inhabitants when required, or presuming to ask more wages than 4*d.* sterling per day—the usual wages—forfeit to the party complaining 40*s.* Scots for first offence, 5*s.* sterling for second, and 10*s.* for the third, besides forfeiture of their freedom for one year. Imprisoned till fines are paid. The above act ordered to be published by trick of drum."

"1750.—The Convention of Royal Burghs voted £20 sterling to this burgh to assist 'in discharging a vexatious law-plea in the year 1732'—of what nature does not appear."

"Manse, 1750.—Opposition made by the Council to repairing the manse. Manse mortified to the Rev. Mr. Blair in 1722. At this latter date the Council supposes the burgh is not bound to repair it."

"1750, Oct.—A proposal made this year to commence a linen manufactory. Burgh subscribes £200 sterling for this purpose."

"1751, May.—Scheme for making a further trial for coal on the 'Green Acres,' near Broad Meadow."

"1752, April.—The Stonney Bridge ordered to be taken down and rebuilt."

"May.—Miln let at 700 merks Scots per annum; but the Magistrates reserve power to themselves of appointing an under miller. It appears from the burgh records that one of the Magistrates, or one of the Councillors, were frequently principal tacksmen of the Miln.—The Flesh Market let at £36 Scots (£3 sterling)."

"1752, June.—First licenses granted by the Magistrates to retailers of wines, ales, and spirituous liquors, within the burgh."

"Manse, 1753, Feb.—Found that the town was not bound to put or keep the manse in repair; but out of regard to Mr. Sydeserf, the minister, agree 'to make the roof wind and water tight.' Town to advance the money for that purpose, but reserving power to reim-

burse the burgh funds from the first vacant stipend falling into the town's hands."

"1755, Dec. 6.—On a petition presented from the deacons of the several incorporations, the Magistrates and Council, in order to 'gratify' the incorporations, are willing to let them the fishings in Clyde and Leven, for 6 or 9 years, at £24 sterling yearly. The burgesses and inhabitants to be supplied from the beginning of the season to the middle thereof, at 2d. per tron pound—and from that till the end, at 1½d per pound. But Captain Noble being at Edinburgh, he was to be written to, so as he might declare his mind, before finally arranging the business."

"1756.—The Magistrates and Council appoint such persons to whom the Town is owing accounts, to lay their accounts before them, on Saturday next, at the ringing of the Kirk bell."

"1758.—Enactment of Council, that all proprietors of tenements fronting the High Street, shall, on their own charge and cost, lead and carry stones and sand for causewaying opposite their own houses to the centre of the Main Street; and the causewayers to be paid out of the Burgh funds."

"1760, March.—Authority given to the Magistrates to contract for building a new Town's House. July 31.—Foundation stone of the Town's House reported to be laid, as of this date, and the Magistrates and Council say 'that on this occasion they will attend.'"

"1764, July 25.—Fishings in Clyde and Leven let to an English company for 19 years, at £300 sterling per annum."

"1768, Feb. 10.—The common ground to the south of the bridge, called the 'goats,' where dock and building yard now is, sold to Baillie Colquhoun, at the price of £5 : 5s. under the burden of 1s. yearly feu."

"April 10.—Gruggie's Bridge agreed to be built according to Mr. Brown's plan and estimates."

"1770, June 25.—Eleven falls and 12 ells of *useless ground* belonging to the Town, adjoining to Wm. Crumb's lands near the Town end, sold to him for £2 sterling."

"1771, April 16.—A piece of ground near the poindfall, consisting of about half an acre, sold to Robert Gardner, by public roup, at £7 : 7s. Same date.—another piece, now called, 'Doveholm,' sold to Wm. Wilson for £4, and 2d. of annual feu duty."

"Sept. 21.—Entry to the ferry-boat 'or boat renall,' attempted to be sold to Bailie James Colquhoun for the sum of £3 : 3s. and 2d. of yearly feu duty, burdened with a common passage from the High Street to the water of Leven, at all times on accidental fires, or other urgent occasions requiring the same." N.B. It does not appear that this minute was ever implemented or signed by any of the Council or Magistrates.

"1772, August 5.—The Tacksmen of the fishings fined in 20s. sterling, to be paid to the minister of the parish for behoof of the

poor, for refusing to sell fish to the burgesses when they had them in their custody, and for insolent behaviour to the Burgesses. Warrant of imprisonment granted against them till the fine is paid."

"1773, August 17.—Minute as to boring for Coal in the Town's liberties, and for limestone within the common loan leading to Garshake. Sept. 6.—Nomination of Mr. Oliphant to be minister of the parish." N.B. The deacons of crafts appear in the sederunt.

"1774, March 26.—Anent a house for the minister, and his acceptance of £7 : 7s. sterling annually, as a conversion in name of glebe rent, during his incumbency. The house possessed by Mr. Freebairn the minister sold to Patrick Mitchell for £100."

"1775, 1 Sept.—In the complaint of the deacon and incorporation of Weavers against Humphrey Colquhoun, for 'packing' and 'peeling' with certain journeymen of the trade; he is found liable in the booking-money and expenses, and he is discharged from working till the whole is paid."

"1776, April 6.—Proclamation ordered by the Magistrates, as to the inhabitants keeping their chimneys clean—imposing a fine of 5s. for every offence, and incarcerated in jail till payment."

"1777, April 5.—Directions as to an engine for extinguishing fires within Burgh recorded at this date."

"1779, July 6.—Bounties offered for manning the Navy, on account of the critical situation of public affairs, by reason of a confederacy betwixt France and Spain against the liberties of this empire."

"1780, March 13.—A standard for the size of bread for the Burgh of Dumbarton, fixed by the Magistrates and Council."

"1781, Oct. 22.—Resolved to set up twelve lamps on the street of the Burgh during Winter."

"1782, March 11.—John M'Auley, Town Clerk, appointed Collector of the revenue of the Burgh, in place of William Hunter, Treasurer, who had absconded with all the funds."

"June 3.—A general meeting of the inhabitants, called by tuck of drum, to consider a plan for raising Militia corps in the principal Towns in Scotland, and to have the Militia exercise and discipline."

"1783, Sept. 11.—£10 of deduction allowed to the Tacksman of the fishings, 'on account of the porpoises in the Clyde causing a sterility.'"

"1784, Jan. 17.—A lawsuit commenced against the Magistrates by the deacons of crafts and a number of the burgesses, for curtailing them of their '*rights and privileges*' to obtain *cheap fish*." It appears the burgesses fought their rulers at the Court of Session for a considerable time, but were finally worsted, and it cost them about £40 each of expenses. See a printed statement, containing evidence and pleadings before the court in this case, many parts of which is very interesting.

"1785, April 5.—Resolution of the Magistrates and Council to

instruct the Burgh member 'to oppose a reform Bill at present in parliament.' "

"1786, May 4.—Proposal to build a School-house and public hall—solicited by gentlemen of the County and others."

"July 13.—A small sum granted to the minister for repairs on the manse possessed by him, 'under a particular condition that the same shall not be drawn into a precedent.' "

"1787, March 25.—Orders as to beggars, to be published from the pulpit and by tuck of drum, and authority to the Burgh Fiscal to prosecute all who serve or harbour them."

"May 8.—Margaret Syme from Edinburgh agreed for one year as a female teacher at £25 and a school-house, she always accounting for the wages and emoluments. The Provost authorised to subscribe £50 to the Glasgow Infirmary, and £300 to build new school-houses."

"July 22.—Messrs. Dobby and Muir named joint teachers of the above schools. Sept. 16.—A committee appointed for increasing the School wages, which are stated '*not to have been raised in the memory of man.*' "

"1792, Feb. 11.—Offer from the late William Dixon, Esq. to feu the Broad Meadow, and other lands belonging to the Burgh; referred to the Town's Agent at Edinburgh for his advice."

"April 26.—An offer made by Sir James Colquhoun, to divide the profits of the River Leven fishings equally; rejected by the Magistrates and Council."

"1792, May 22.—The Lane or Lone, running from the High Street to the River Leven, near '*Sky Bank*,' agreed to be exchanged for an addition to the breadth of the one adjoining Dugald M'Callum's property, *on the condition*, that the Glasswork Company, with whom the exchange is made, '*shall erect a stone at the foot of the Sky Bank Lone, with an inscription*, declairing it to be the commencement and termination of the Town's commonty, as described in the Charter granted to the Burgh by King James Sixth.' "

"June 21.—An offer was laid on the Council table from the gentlemen of the county, of six hundred guineas for enlarging the Town's Inn, and thus accommodating them with a large hall and two parlours, on the condition of the Town laying out other twelve hundred guineas on the building; the offer accepted by the Burgh, under certain conditions."

"1793, Feb. 28.—Recommendation to Lord Lorne, to name the Rev. Mr. Oliphant as Chaplain, and George Swan, Surgeon, to a regiment of fensibles about to be raised by his Lordship."

"March 16.—A bounty of two guineas each man offered to volunteers entering into Lord Lorne's regiment."

"July 18.—Agree to sell Gabriel Lang the piece of the common Lone, leading past his lands at Maryland, at the foot of the Maryland croft, for £6: 6s."

"August 1.—Resolution to raise a volunteer corps of Infantry within the Burgh, of from 50 to 100 strong."

"1795, Feb. 4.—Agreed to support Baillie Key, and to be at the expense of defending him in an action of wrongous imprisonment, at the instance of John Gardner, Currier."

"1798, March 12.—A voluntary subscription by the Burgh, in aid or towards the *support of government*, of one hundred guineas."

"1805, Feb. 4.—Resolution to sell the 'Meikle Acre' and the 'School Roods.'"

"1815, March 31.—Offer for the lands of 'Capon Acre' and 'Boll of Meal,' both belonging to the town, accepted of; purchased by John Dixon, Esq. Levensgrove, for £525."

Dumbarton Glass and Chemical Works.

These works, it would appear, were founded in the year 1777. They were carried on for a long period of years, to a very great extent, for the manufacture of crown glass and bottles, and for chemical preparations therewith connected. In consequence of the death of two of the active partners, which happened in the year 1831, they were placed, shortly after, under the judicial authority of the Court of Session, and a judicial factor appointed over the estate. They remained in operation for about five or six years, and they were afterwards publicly sold upon the 3d of October, 1838, and became the property of the present proprietor, Mr. Christie. The manufacture of crown glass and bottles was again immediately put in operation. From this manufacture, since the recommencement, duties to the amount of from 20 to £30,000 per annum have been paid to government by the present Proprietor. In the spring of the year 1845, the duties were abrogated, and the surveillance of the excise rendered unnecessary. The present Proprietor relinquished in 1845 the making of bottles: and in the year 1846, commenced the manufacture of German Sheet Glass, principally by French workmen, the only manufacture of the kind in Scotland, which may be convenient and of advantage to parties who use this description of glass in this country.

BANKS.

Commercial Bank of Scotland.—Till the year 1825, we believe there was no Banking Establishment within the County of Dumbarton, the nearest Banks being in Glasgow and Greenock, where the whole business of the district had to be transacted, and that at a time when the facilities for intercourse were not so great as at present. In the above year, the Commercial Bank of Scotland first resolved to establish a branch in the Burgh, which commenced business on the 29th August; at first under the temporary charge of Mr. J. S. Cunningham, (now secretary of the Bank,) until Mr. Archibald Burns, who

was appointed agent; entered upon his duties in October following. The Bank occupied temporary premises for upwards of four years, but, in the summer of 1828, embraced the opportunity which then occurred of securing the eligible site on which the old Manse of Dumbarton stood, which they purchased from the Magistrates, and on which the Bank's present house was erected in the course of the following season. Mr. Burns (who was Provost of the Burgh at the time) having been appointed manager of the Central Bank of Scotland, a new establishment which then commenced business at Perth, was, in April, 1834, succeeded in the agency by Mr. James Seton Veitch, from the Head Office of the Bank in Edinburgh, who died in December, 1837. In February following, he was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Black, formerly the Bank's agent in Linlithgow, who resigned in April, 1843, and he was succeeded by the present agent, Mr. Paul.

In addition to the facilities which the establishment of the branch first afforded to the whole Vale of Leven and the large adjacent country district, the community of the Burgh were in 1843 enabled, through the liberal assistance afforded by the Bank, to place its monetary affairs on a more satisfactory footing, by obtaining from it a loan, to the extent of £16,500, on highly advantageous terms, on the security of the Heritable Property in the hands of the Burgh, with a supplemental personal bond in security from the Burgesses, to the amount of about £7,000. The magistrates were thus enabled to effect a settlement with the town's creditors for 17s. 6d. per pound, in full of their claims.

The sum borrowed was reduced to about £5500 by the price obtained in October, 1841, for the Burgh Moor, part of the subjects then disposed of, but the accommodation to the above extent, and on the same favourable terms, is still afforded. William Paul, Esq. is present agent, and Mr. James Henderson Brown, accountant.

Western Bank.—This branch of the Western Bank of Scotland was established here in March, 1840, and, having recently purchased very eligible premises at a considerable cost, they have been fitted up in a very tasteful manner, for the convenience of their increasing business. Robert Buchanan, Esq. of Knoxland, is agent, and Mr. Gersham Grant, accountant.

Both of these establishments do a great amount of business in the Burgh and surrounding Country.

Ship Building.—This business, in all its branches and departments, forms one of the chief occupations within the Burgh for the employment of numerous mechanics and artisans. It is carried on to a very considerable extent by Messrs. Denny and Rankine, Messrs. A. McMillan and Son, and by Messrs. Denny Brothers; the latter of whom construct all kinds of iron steamers of varied descriptions, both with paddle wheels and on the Archimedian screw-propelling principle.

Steam Trade.—The old Dumbarton steam-boat company was formed in May, 1815. The copartnery originally consisted of twenty shareholders. Their steamer, the “Duke of Wellington,” was amongst the first vessels that plied on the Clyde. This is the oldest steam-boat company in Europe. All the original proprietors have passed into the grave, with the exception of two.

The “Dumbarton and Glasgow steam-packet company” was established in 1838, and the “Clyde and Leven steam company” in 1846. These three companies have very recently amalgamated into one, now denominated the Dumbarton Steam-boat Company; the standing regulation of which is, that none but resident burgesses of the Burgh can be Proprietors.

First Steam Navigation on the River Clyde.

Copy of an advertisement, taken from one of the Glasgow Newspapers, dated 5th August, 1812:—Steam passage boat, THE COMET, between Glasgow, Greenock, and Helensburgh, for passengers only.

The Subscriber having, at much expense, fitted up a handsome Vessel to ply upon the River Clyde, between Glasgow and Greenock—to sail by the power of wind, air, and steam—he intends that the Vessel shall leave the Broomielaw on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, about mid-day, or at such hour thereafter as may answer from the state of the tide—and to leave Greenock on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, in the morning, to suit the tide.

The elegance, comfort, safety, and speed of this vessel require only to be proved, to meet the approbation of the public; and the Proprietor is determined to do every thing in his power to merit public encouragement.

The terms are for the present fixed at 4s. for the best Cabin, and 3s. the Second; but, beyond these rates, nothing is to be allowed to servants, or any other person employed about the vessel.

The Subscriber continues his establishment at Helensburgh Baths, the same as for years past, and a vessel will be in readiness to convey passengers in the COMET from Greenock to Helensburgh.

Passengers by the COMET will receive information of the hours of sailing, by applying at Mr. Houston's Office, Broomielaw; or Mr. Thomas Blackney's, East Quay Head, Greenock.

HENRY BELL.

HELENSBURGH BATHS, 5th August, 1812.

Mr. Bell presented this new method of Navigation to the British Government at three different times, viz. in 1800, 1803, and 1813, when, after all his exertions, it was thought to be of no utility to Government. After it was denied him in 1803, he thought it very hard that such a discovery should lie dormant, and on that account he sent a description of the method of applying steam in propelling vessels against wind and tide to all the Emperors and Crowned

Heads in Europe, and also to America, which last Government put it in practice in the year 1806.—Behold now its splendid results!!

Burgess' privileges.—From time immemorial, till the year 1784, the burgesses and members of the incorporated trades of Dumbarton were uniformly supplied with salmon from the fishings of Clyde and Leven, belonging to the Burgh, at very low rates. The Tacksman was bound first to bring all the fish caught to "the Cross" or "the Tron," and there amply supply the burgesses, with their families, at stipulated rates, ere they dared to take them to any other market. The rates were generally 2*d.* and 1½*d.* per tron pound in the beginning of the year, and 1*d.* and ¾*d.* per pound at the end of the season. The Magistrates, however, in the above year, leased these productive fishings to an English company for a term of years, at £300 annually, without making any reservation for the supply of the burgesses and incorporations at the use and wont low rates. The consequence was, that the Burgh officials were dragged before the Court of Session by the inhabitants, and, after a tedious law plea, and a few hundreds of pounds expended by each party, the Magistrates were finally successful in demolishing this *cheap salmon* monopoly. During a century or two previous to this period, it was customary for apprentices and male and female servants to stipulate and agree with their respective masters and mistresses, to have "salmon" only twice a-day, and once on Sabbath.

John Monipennie, a Scottish chronicler, who wrote about the year 1600, relates many wonderful things which occurred in his day in Scotland. "In the north seas of Scotland," he says, "there are great clogs of wood found, in the which are marvellously engendered a sort of geese, called clayk geese, and doe hang by the beake till they be of perfection; oft times they are found and kept in admiration of their rare generation. At Dumbarton, directly under the castle, at the mouth of the river Leven as it enters into the Cluyde, there are a great number of clayk geese, black of colour, which in the night-time doe gather great quantity of crops of the long grasse growing upon the land, and carry the same to the sea; then, assembling in a round ring, and with a wonderous curiositie, do offer everie one his own portion to the sea floud, and there attend upon the flowing of the tide, till the grasse be purified from the fresh state and turned to the salt; and lest any part thereof should escape, they labour to hold it in their nebs; thereafter orderly everie fowle eats his portion, and this custom they observe perpetually. They are very fat and delicious to eat."

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

THE following instrument is one of the oldest documents extant, being 323 years old, regarding the disputes between the Burghs of

Dumbarton and Renfrew, as to the navigation of the Clyde. Besides possessing a local interest, it preserves a very curious specimen of ancient usages and language, which cannot fail to be acceptable to our readers.

1524.—PRO BALLIVIS DE DUNBERTANE, &c.

DIE xvij mensis maii, anno domini millesimo quingentesimo xxiiij: the quhilk day comperit rycht honorable mene, viz: Johnne Smolet & Johnne Palmer balzeis of ye burgh of Dunbertane, wyth tene of ye honorable & wirschipfull mene of yare nychtbowris burgessis of ye said burgh, in ye parrisch kirk of Kilpatrick; and in lykwiise comperit honorable mene, viz: Johnne Robisoune and Adame of Haw balzeis of ye burgh of Renfrew, as was allegit, wyth tene of ye honorable & wirschipfull mene of yar nychtbowris of ye said burgh of Renfrew, in ye said parrisch kirk of Kilpatrik. And ye forsadis xxiiij personis aboune vrityne chesit xij of yaim, to sit desyde determine, & to end all queralis debatible materris and contraverciis, menit betwix ye forsadis borrowis, & inhabitaris of ye samyng, efter ye forme & tenor of ane auld band and lege, maid betwix ye forsadis borrowis onder yar commoun selis. The personis chosyng be ye forsaid burgh of Dunbertane, in ye fyrst, ye said Johne Smolet balze, Maister Robert Barre ersdene of Ergile, Thomas Dowglas, Johne Lyndissay, Thomas Fallisdail and Colyne Porterfyld: and ye personis chosyng for ye burgh of Renfrew, in ye fyrst, Johne Robisone & Adame of Haw balzeis, Robert Langomwre, Niniane Jaksons, Johne of Knok and Findillaw Crawford. And yan ye said John Smolet balze, in ye nayme and behalf of his nychtbouris, conburgensis of ye said burgh of Dunbertane, askyt & also requirit at ye forsadis balzeis of Renfrew, quhare one yai war plaintwes upone ye forsadis nychtbouris of ye said burgh of Dunbertane. And yai allegit at ye balzeis & burgese of Dunbertane had faltyt to yem diuerse wiise: in ye fyrst, at yai had maid ane band & confederatione wyth ye ceta of Glasgw wythout yare leif: Secundlay, at the said Johne Palmer balze had intromettit wyth ye custum and toll of ane scheip of Franse, wythin yare boundis & fre-doundis, &c. And yan ye forsaid Johne Smolet balze, & his nychtbouris aboune exprimit, askyt quhat rycht and eidentis yai had, for yaim to schaw yaim before ye fornait personis & jugis aboune vrityne. And yan ye forsadis balzeis of Renfrew schow ane lettir wyth diverse selis, and, as he allegit, ane testimoniale; ane instrument of ye transumpt of ye samyng, as yai allegit. And yarefter, ye said Johne Smolet & his nychtbouris requirit ye saidis balzeis & nychtbouris gif yai haid ony uther letteris or documentis to schaw for yaim. Ye said Johne Robisone blaze answert at yai wald schaw na uther eidentis to ye saidis at yat tyme.

Item yar efter, ye said Johne Smolet requirit ye saidis balzies of

Renfrew, at ye forsadis xij personis aboune exprimit suld [desyd] & determine ye debatis & querelis betwix ye saidis bowrrowis, and gif yai culd nocht determine & desyde yaim, yat yia suld chese & aggre upone a place, quhar bath ye saidis borrowis might haif hast-yest expedicione, efter ye tenor and forme of yar auld band. Item efternounge, ye said John Smolet balze, in ye nayme & behalf of ye said burgh of Dunbertane, passit to ye forsadis balzeis & burgese of Renfrew, and requirit yaim yat yia wald put fra yaim all personis, excep ye six personis at war chosying for Dunbertane, & to bryng before yaim yar eidentis at yai wil vise for yaim. And gif ye saidis xij personis culd nocht aggre upone ye debatis & querelis, that ye saidis xij personis suld chese new jugis and set ane new day, efter ye forme and tenor of ye indentor and band maid betwix ye saidis bowrrowis, as he allegit; ye quhilkis ye saidis balzeis and nychtbowris of Renfrew refusit. Upone all yir thyngis aboune vritine, ye said Johne Smolet, in nayme & behalf of ye said burgh of Dunbertane, suld nocht hurt ye said burgh nor priuelegis of ye samyng, & for remede of law, solempniter protestyd.

Acta erant hec in ecclesia parochiali de Kilpatrick et circa cimiterium eiusdem, horis xj et secunda ante meridiem et post meridiem, presentibus ibidem honestis viris Johanne Culquhoun, Gilberto Makcartor, Georgio Abernathy, Willielmo Cunyng-hame, Waltero Robisone et Johanne Houston cum diuersis aliis.

ORIGINAL.—LETTER FROM KING JAMES I. CONTAINING A GRANT
TO THE BURGH OF DUMBARTON.

JAMES R.

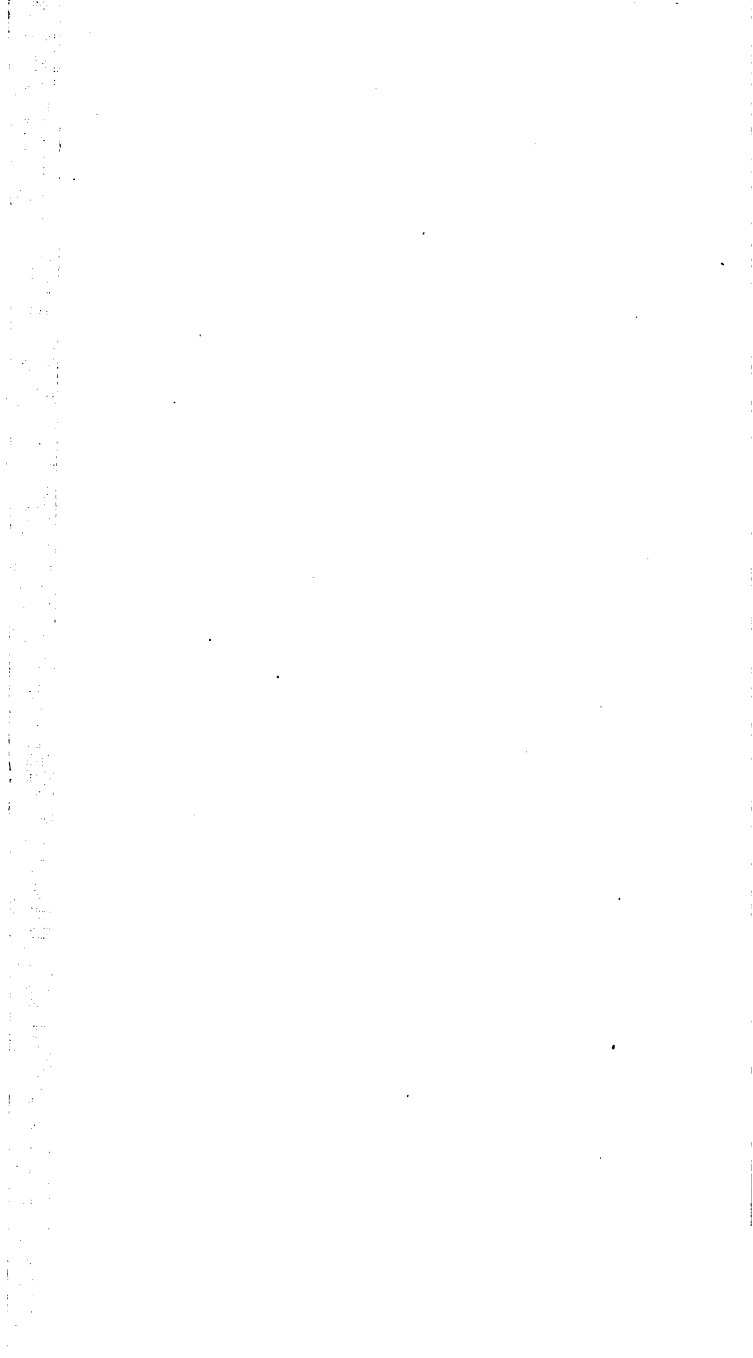
RIGHT trustye and weilbeloued couseings and counsellors, we greitt you weill; whereas the apparent & imminent decay of our burgh of Dumbartane, by the inundation of watteris, whiche by tyme ar lyike to carye away that hole toun, moved our estaites of that our kingdom, to condisteind to a volunter subsidye of twenty fyve thousand markis, for buildeing up of suche fortificationis against the violent course of the watter, as might preserve that our burgh from any farder harme thereby; and in regaird that soume was too litle for doing of the worke intendit, therefor we haiv gevin our speciall precept for payment of twelve thousand markis more, that so that our olde burgh, of so long continuance, suld not perish for laike of supplie. And becaus the worke itself will hold, no doubt, the sole inhabitants of the same busyed indureing the time thereof, and specialle this somer now approcheing, and we being loathe, that upon any other occasioun they suld be diverted from doing of that which will amitt no delay, we haiv therefor thocht meitt to exeime thame from all burdeyne of this jorney intendit for quyeting of our Iyles, since their povertye cannot yeild any great mat-

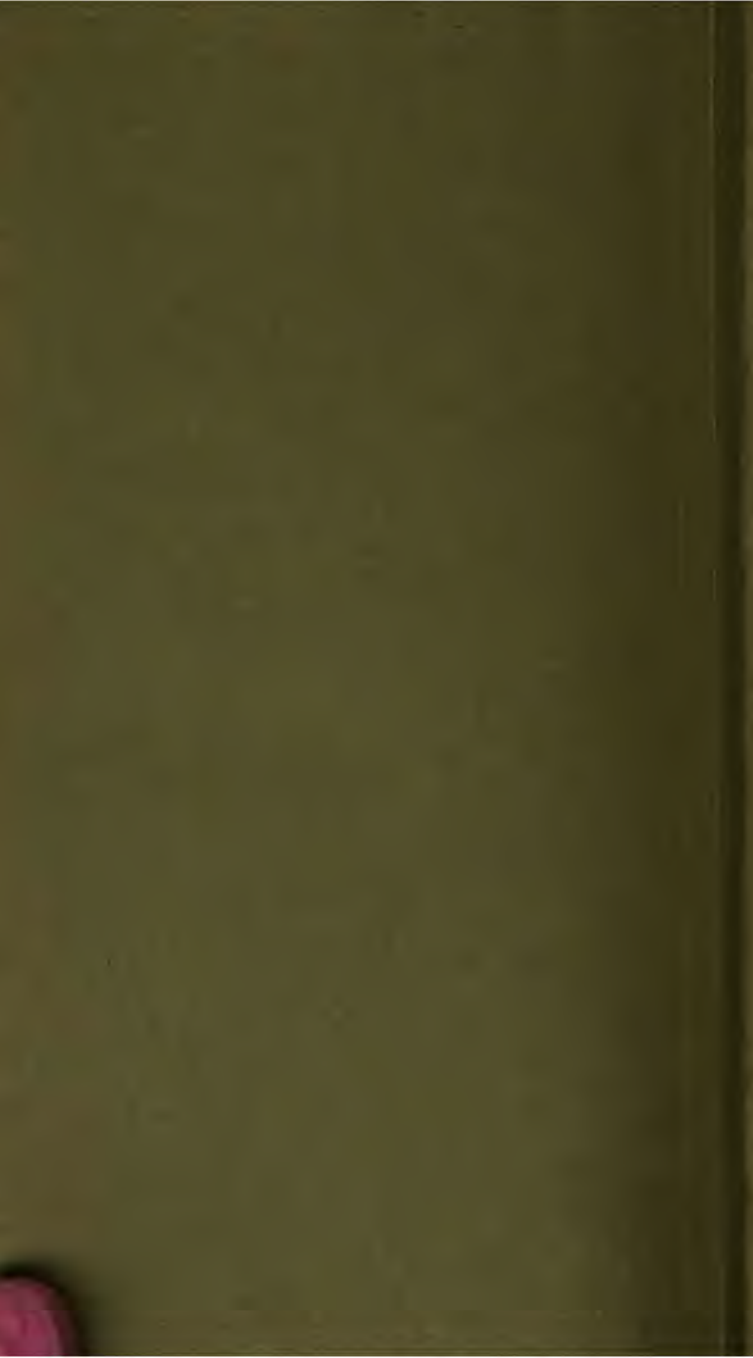
ter of help in that busyines, and yt the going thither of any of thame wald be a hinderance to theire owne workes; and you sall speciallye license thame from the obedience of our proclamationis maid for their repairing to the saidis Iylis, & noway suffer thame to be troubled & molested for the same in caise of there absence therefra, wherenent these presentis salbe your warrant: and so we bid you fairweill, from our court at Thetforde, the xv of Apryle, 1608.

Presented and red in Counsell, the 24 of May, 1608.

To our right trustye and weilbeloved cousengis and counsellors, the erle of Dumfermling, chancellor and remanent lordis and otheris of our privie counsell of that our kingdom of Scotland.

[Dumbartainis exemptionnes fra the Yles. Purchast by Jhone Semple qun he was in Londonne.]





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